義風堂々!! 直江兼続

前田慶次・月語り

壱

[原作] 原哲夫・堀江信彦
[漫画] 武村勇治

BUNCH COMICS
義風堂々!! 直江兼続 前田慶次・月語り 壱
[原作] 原哲夫・堀江信彦
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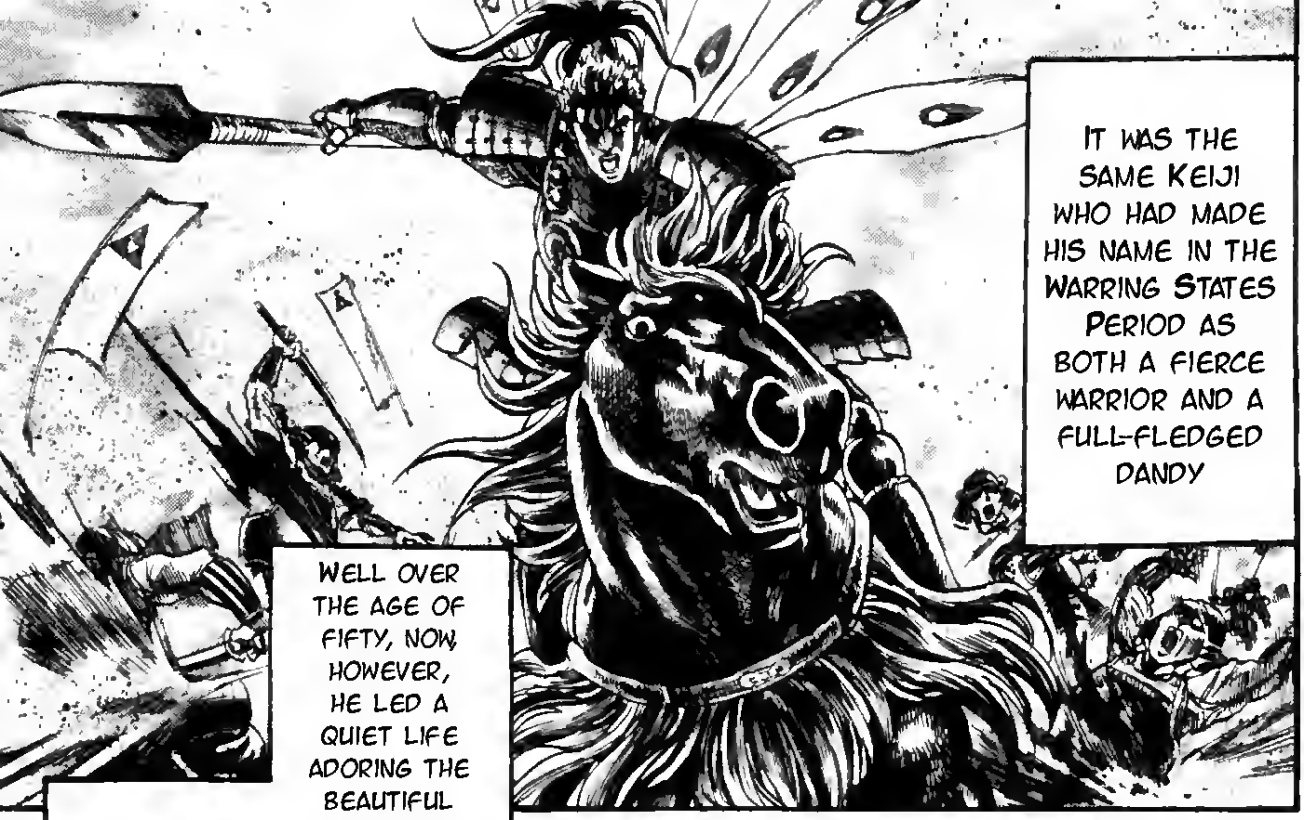
JUNCH COMICS
潮社

Our story begins in the end of the warring states period
In Yonezawa, Doumori, of Dewa no Kuni (currently Yamagata Prefecture).
Here, where fresh clean water flows out endlessly from the mountains.
There existed a lonely hermitage known as "Muku."
(*TL NOTE: LIT. MEANS "NO PAIN")
The master of this hermit-age
ゴオオ
ゴオオ

WAS MAEDA KEIJI
JUST AND DIGNIFIED!!
NAOE KANETSUGU AND MAEDA KEIJI TSUKIGATARI
義風堂々!!
直江兼続
前田慶次月語り



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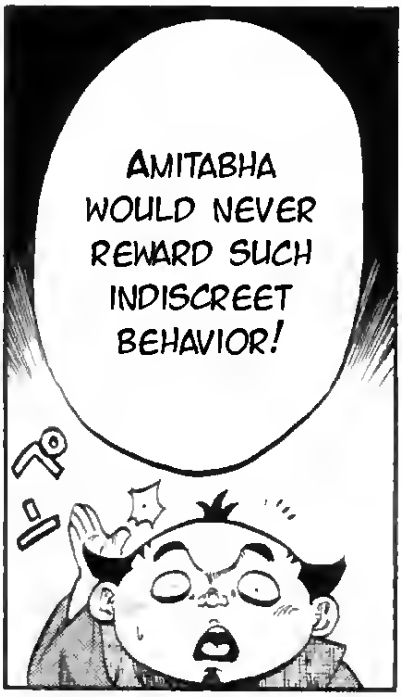
(*TL NOTE: HYOTTOKO MEANS JESTER)

LORD HAVE MERCY ON ME!
YES SIRE!
LORD HAVE MERCY ON ME!
YEEES, SIRE!
THIS IS GOSUKE... KEIJI'S SERVANT
YOU'RE EQUATING FAITH WITH ECONOM-ICS...?
AH, BUT SIRE...
PRAYING IS FREE, ISN'T IT?! SO IF IT'S FREE, THEN IT CAN'T HURT ME TO PRAY ALL THE TIME, CAN IT? IT CAN ONLY POSSIBLY HELP!!
GOSUKE... YOU'RE ACTING ODD. WHY WOULD YOU BE PRAYING WHILE POURING ME SAKE?
ゴォォォン
DOESN'T REALLY SURPRISE ME, THOUGH
OH MY, WE'RE ALREADY OUT
LORD HAVE MERCY ON ME!
ALLOW ME TO GO AND GET MORE

YES?
GOSUKE
EH?
NOTHING
WHAT?! WHAT DO YOU WANT?!
NOO OOO THING
GOSUKE!
LORD HAVE MERCY ON ME!
SHE ESH ...
MASTER ...!
PLEASE DON'T CALL ME IF YOU DON'T WANT ANYTHING!!
ピタッ
は!
GOSUKEEEE !!!
LORD HAVE MERCY ON ME!
... HMPH!
GR RR ...

THAT'S NO DIFFERENT FROM THAT PRAYING YOU'RE DOING!! IF YOU KEEP ON PRAYING THROUGH ALL HOURS OF THE DAY, YOU'RE GOING TO PISS OFF AMITABHA, AND THEN HE WON'T EVEN LISTEN TO YOU!
THAT'S IT!

はははは
YOU'RE COMPLETELY RIGHT!!
AHHH, MASTER!


AMITABHA WOULD NEVER REWARD SUCH INDISCREET BEHAVIOR!
ペニー

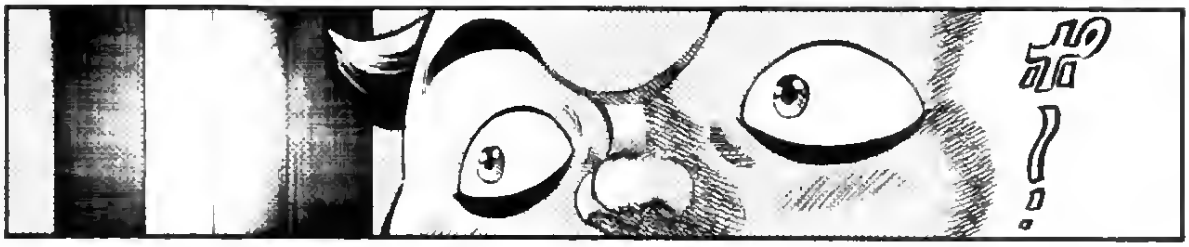
SIRE ...
YOU'RE RIGHT, YOU'RE RIGHT!
I'D LOSE MORE AS A RESULT! TALKING WOULD INCUR ME LOSSES!
YES SIRE!
TALKING WOULD INCUR LOSSES, HUH...? ACCURSED FOOL...
HO OO
GO AHEAD, LAUGH. NOT EVEN OL' KEIJI CAN KEEP UP WITH THE YOUNGSTERS THESE DAYS

EH, SIR KANETSUGU ?!
THIS SAMURAI IS...
NAOE KANET-SUGU

KANE-
TSUGU
HAILED
FROM THE
UESUGI
FAMILY,
AND WAS A
GOVERNOR OF
YONEZAWA WITH A
300,000 KOKU
FIEF HE WAS ALSO
A CORDIAL FRIEND
OF KEIJI'S

THERE'S
A FINE
MOON OUT
TONIGHT,
SO I
WANTED
TO SHARE A
DRINK WITH
YOU

THEY JUST DRANK WITH THE MOON. THAT WAS ALL
AND SO, THE TWO SHARED DRINKS WHILE GAZING AT THE MOON. THEY DIDN'T REALLY TALK ABOUT ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR
HMMM ?


ホ!!

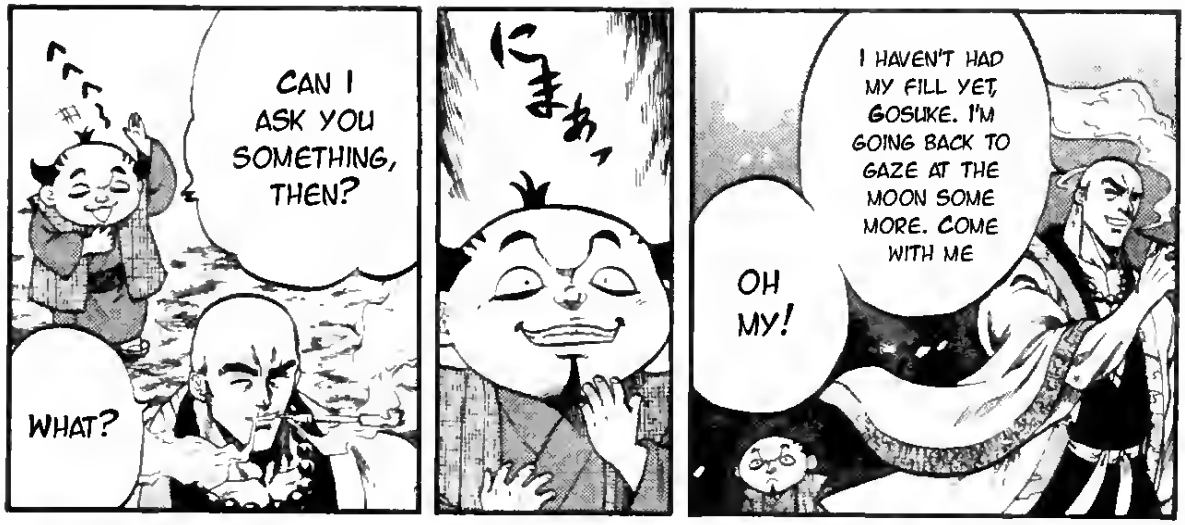
HOWEVER, THE ATMOSPHERE THAT ENCOMPASSED THEM WAS TRULY A REFRESHING ONE, AND GOSUKE WAS MESMERIZED BY THE SIGHT OF IT

TWO HOURS LATER

THAT WAS DELICIOUS SAKE
AHH

THESE TWO HAD CHARGED THROUGH THE BATTLEFIELD TOGETHER. THEY DIDN'T REQUIRE ANY MORE WORDS THAN THAT

"HOW ARE YOU?" "WELL, I'M STILL ALIVE." THAT'S ALL THEY MEANT TO CONFIRM FROM ONE ANOTHER


CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING, THEN?
WHAT?
にまあ
I HAVEN'T HAD MY FILL YET, GOSUKE. I'M GOING BACK TO GAZE AT THE MOON SOME MORE. COME WITH ME
OH MY!

ABOUT MASTER KANETSUGU
MASTER KANETSUGU IS DEEPLY TRUSTED BY THE LEADER OF YONEZAWA, UESUGI KAGEMATSU,
SO HE PRETTY MUCH CONTROLS THE AREA. BUT...

STRANGELY ENOUGH, NO ONE KNOWS ANY STORIES ABOUT KANETSUGU WHEN WAS YOUNG, AND STILL CALLED YOROKU
SO I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT KNOW A FEW, MASTER...

AH! I THOUGHT THEN I COULD BRAG A LITTLE TO THE TOWNS-FOLK!
WHY DO YOU WANT TO HEAR THEM?
WHAT WAS THAT, SIRE?
DIE? OVER SUCH A THING?
ARE YOU PREPARED TO DIE FOR THAT?
EH?

YES, SIR! IIRE!
TRUST ME
THOSE ARE ALL SECRETS I INTEND TO TAKE TO THE GRAVE
YOU'RE BETTER OFF NOT HEARING THEM

HOO
...
.....
I REFUSED TO TELL HIM,
BUT IT'S STILL A BIT UNSETTLING... TO GO ON CARRYING ALL THIS MYSELF..

(TL NOTE: THIS IS WHAT GIFUU DOUDOU MEANS)

NAOE KA NET SU GU !!
義風堂々!!
ぎふうどうどう
直江兼続
—前田慶次 月語り—
CHAPTER ONE:
HE WAS LIKE A CLOUD!!
[原作]原哲夫・堀江信彦 [漫画]武村勇治

Chapter 00 by Gifuu Doudou!! Scans

Translator: Molokidan

Editor: IndomitableCloud

義風堂々!! 直江兼続

前田慶次 月語り

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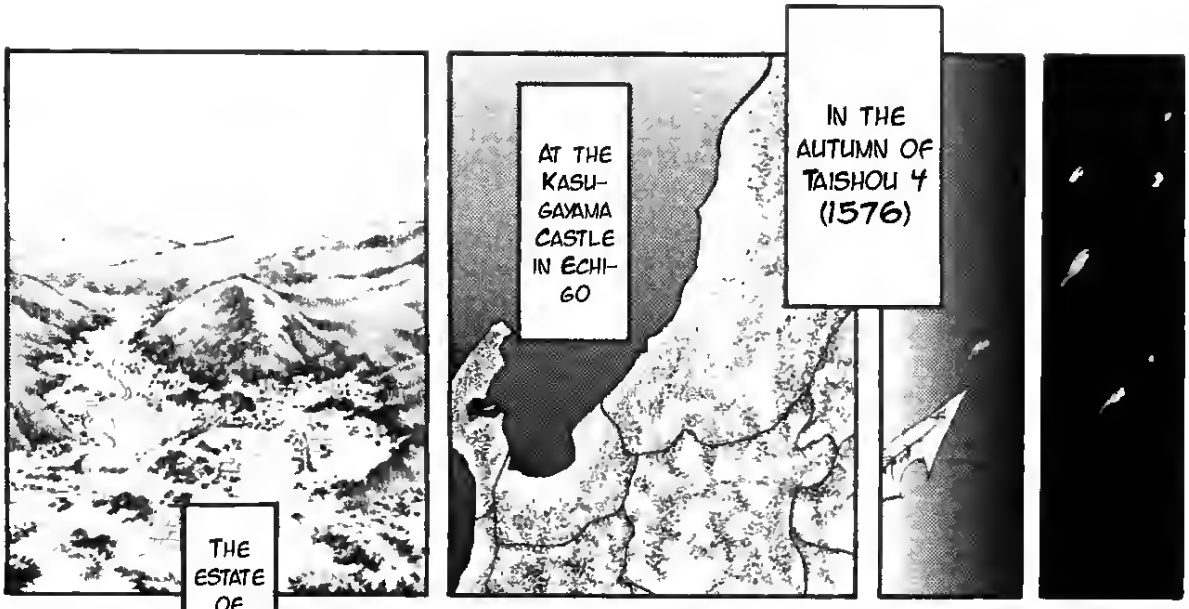

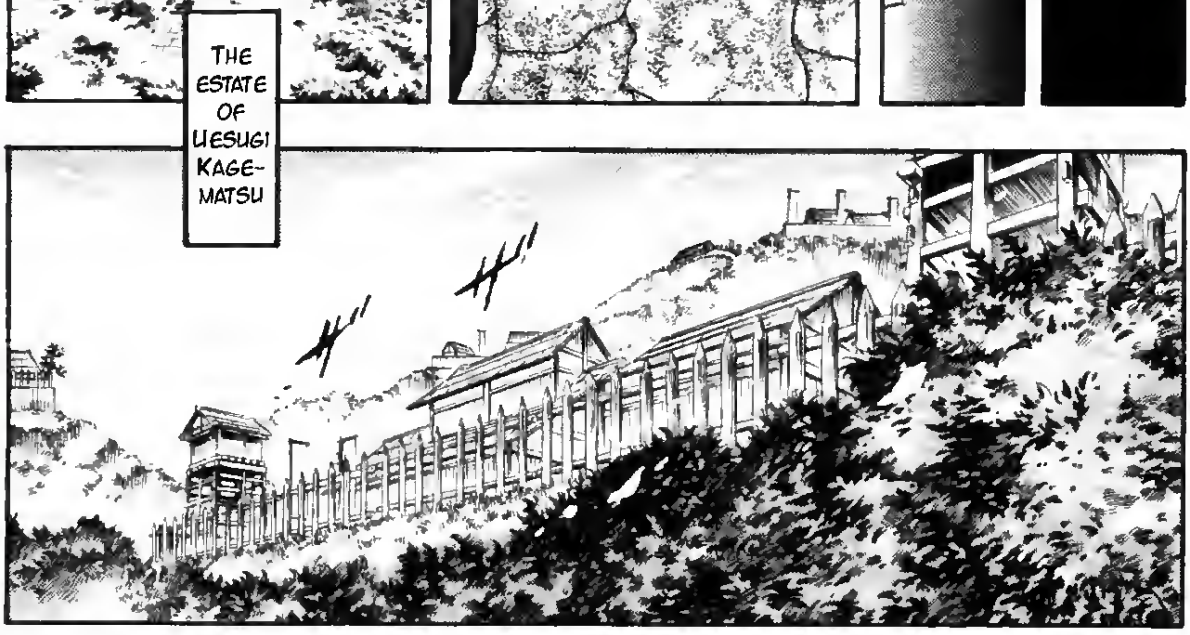

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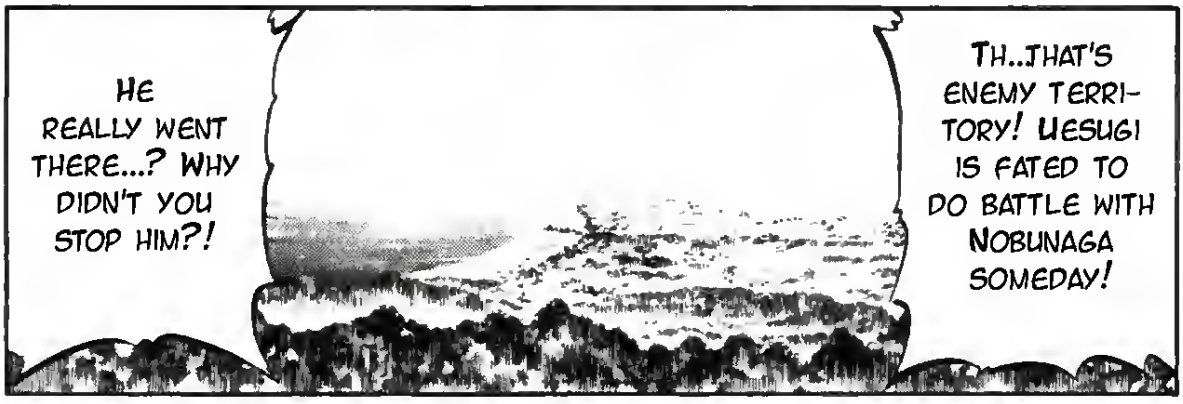
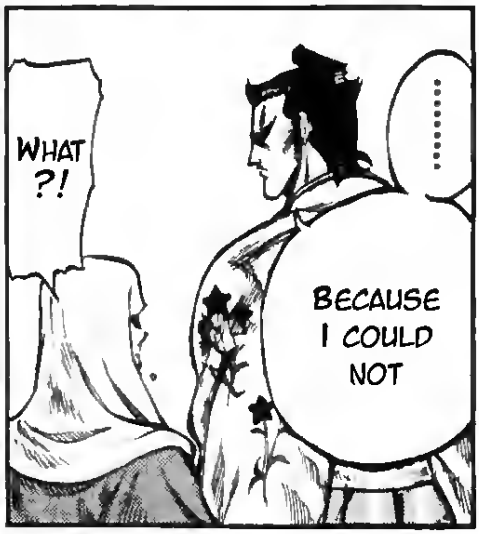
AS THE BLOOD ELDER SISTER OF UESUGI KENSHIN, SHE WAS MUCH LIKE A MOTHER TO HIM. SHE WAS TAKEN AS A WIFE BY NAGAO MASAKAGE, THE LEADER OF THE SAKATO CASTLE IN UEDASOU, ECHIGO. HOWEVER, MASAKAGE DIED 12 YEARS AGO, SO SHE SHAVED HER HEAD AND BECAME A BUDDHIST NUN, RENAMING HERSELF SENTOUIN
SEN-TOUIN
.....
!
KAGEKA-TSU!!

UESUGI KAGE-KATSU
THE ELDEST SON OF MASAKAGE AND SENTOUIN, AND NEPHEW TO KENSHIN. AFTER KAGEKATSU LOST HIS FATHER AT THE AGE OF 9, KENSHIN ADOPTED THE BOY. AFTER MASAKAGE'S DEATH,
KAGEKATSU BECAME THE LORD OF SAKATO CASTLE. HOWEVER, ONE YEAR AGO, IN ORDER TO RECEIVE EDUCATION SO THAT HE COULD BECOME KENSHIN'S SUCCESSOR, KAGEKATSU WAS CALLED TO KASUGAYAMA CASTLE
...
MOTHER
KAGEKATSU
...
HAVE YOU SEEN YOROKU?

NOBODY'S SEEN YOROKU FOR THE PAST THREE DAYS
YOROKU IS YOUR PAGE! AS HIS MASTER, YOU SHOULD ALWAYS KNOW WHERE HE IS!
KAGEKATSU WAS A MAN OF FEW WORDS, AND IS SAID TO HAVE NEVER SMILED ONCE DURING HIS ENTIRE LIFE
BY THIS POINT IN HIS LIFE, THERE WAS ALREADY A VERTICAL WRINKLE ETCHED INTO THE MAN'S BROW
WHY WON'T YOU ANSWER? KAGEKATSU!
.....
MMM?
YOROKU ...
KAGEKA-TSU!
LOOK AT YOUR MOTHER IN THE EYES!
!?
WENT TO AZUCHI...

A... AZUCHI?!
IS BUILDING A CASTLE?!
TH..THE SAME AZUCHI WHERE ODA NOBUNAGA


HE REALLY WENT THERE...? WHY DIDN'T YOU STOP HIM?!
TH..THAT'S ENEMY TERRI-TORY! UESUGI IS FATED TO DO BATTLE WITH NOBUNAGA SOMEDAY!


WHAT?!
.....
BECAUSE I COULD NOT

HE SAID HE WAS GOING TO STUDY NOBUNAGA
THERE IS A THEORY THAT SAYS "KNOW YOUR ENEMY, AND YOU CAN SAFELY FIGHT 100 BATTLES."
THEREFORE I DID NOT STOP HIM!
TH...
THAT ECCENTRIC BOY!!
KOUSHUU (OUMI)
AZUCH-IYAMA

NOBUNAGA ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD BE BUILDING AZUCHI CASTLE IN THE FIRST MONTH OF TENSHOU 4 (1576). BY THE SECOND MONTH, NOBUNAGA HAD TAKEN THE INITIATIVE AND MOVED HIS ESTATE TO THE LAND HE INTENDED TO DIRECT THE CONSTRUCTION HIMSELF

HUTS WERE BUILT FOR THE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF HIRED LABORERS HIRED FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY
TO PREPARE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, AT THE BASE OF AZUCHIYAMA MOUNTAIN,
THE TOWN SOON CAME ALIVE WITH MERCHANTS AND PROSTITUTES WHO FLOCKED THERE TO PREY OFF THESE HARDWORKING MEN

ORA AAA AAA HHH !!
UWA HH!
YOU WANNA DIIIIIE ?!
HAND THAT WOMAN OVER TO ME OR ELSE!!
GUA HHH!
H...HAVE MERCYYY ...
NO, PLEASE ANYONE BUT HERRRR!
THAT'S IT...
NOW, NOW, THAT'S ENOUGH VIOLENCE

THIS CAN BE SETTLED BY TALKING LIKE CIVILIZED PEOPLE,
CAN'T IT?
ズ!!
ドン
NOW, LET ME EXPLAIN IT SIMPLY SO THAT EVERY-ONE CAN UNDERSTAND
CRACK ...
THAT WOMAN IS ONE OF MY SLAVES, WHO I BROUGHT BACK MYSELF FROM THE BATTLEFIELD AT SHINANO!

IN THIS PERIOD, TAKING SLAVES FROM THE BATTLEFIELD WAS A COMMON THING FOR MEN TO DO. AND FOR DAIMYO AND FOOT SOLDIERS, THESE SLAVES COULD BECOME A GREAT SOURCE OF INCOME. WHENEVER A BATTLE ENDED, CROWDS OF SLAVES BEING LED BY SLAVE MERCHANTS COULD ALWAYS BE SEEN ON THE HIGHWAYS
B...BUT I BOUGHT HER FOR 5 KAN FROM A MERCHANT!
IF ANYTHING, SHE SHOULD BE RETURNED TO HER MASTER, SHOULDN'T SHE?
NOW GIVE HER BACK!
NO OO OO OO OO!
IF YOU'VE GOT ANY COMPLAINTS, TELL IT TO THAT THIEF!
THAT MERCHANT STOLE HER FROM MY PLACE, YOU KNOW THAT?
CRACK
UUU ...
WELL? EASY TO UNDERSTAND, ISN'T IT?
HIEE!

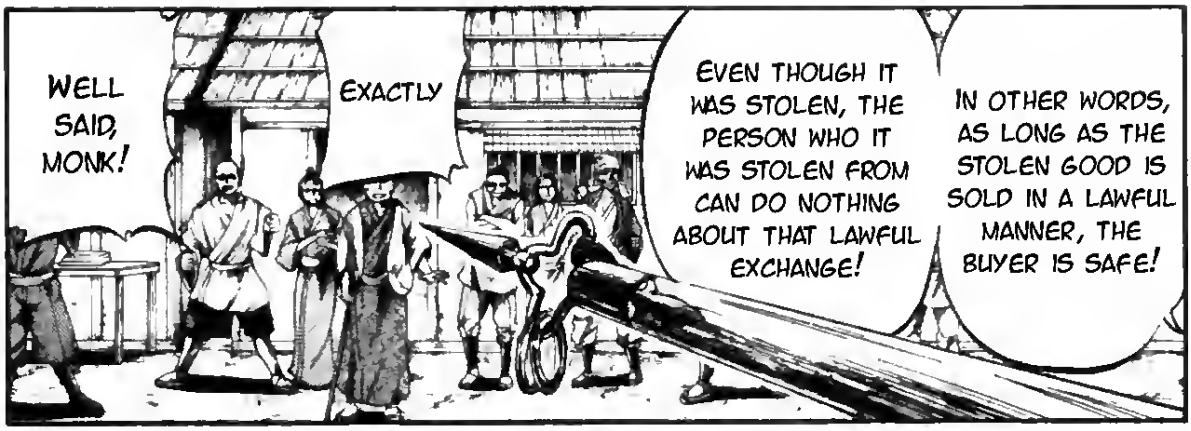
P... PLEASE, STOP!
SHE EVEN CARRIES MY CHILD IN HER STOMACH!
THIS WOMAN IS NO ONE'S SLAVE! SHE'S MY WIFE!
UHH ...
ONE, TWO...
OHH...A CHILD, EH?
YOU THINK I HAVE THAT KIND OF MONEY IN MY HOUSE?!
10 KAN?!
I'LL MAKE A DEAL WITH YOU AND SELL BOTH OF THEM TO YOU FOR 10 KAN!
OK, THEN. THIS'LL BE EVEN EASIER TO UNDERSTAND
CRA CK
CRA CK

HIE EE!
THIS IS WHAT YOU GET FOR BEING A PAIN IN THE ASS!!
THEN WE'RE DONE TALK-ING!
AHHH! YOU'RE STILL DOING IT!
PS SH
TAP
OH, SORRY! I STOLE THIS, SO I'M NOT QUITE USED TO ITS LENGTH YET!
OWWWW! YOU'RE STABBING ME, BOSS!
TAP
TAP
PS SH
TRYING TO REASON WITH IDIOTS LIKES YOU ALWAYS MAKES MY SHOULDERS CRAMP UP!

EASY TO UNDER-STAND, ISN'T IT?!
AND IF YOU GET SOMETHING STOLEN, YOU NEED TO STEAL IT BACK BY FORCE!!
STEAL OR BE STOLEN FROM! THAT'S THE ONLY LAW IN THESE WARRING STATES!!
ジャラ…
さくっ
HMM?
AHH!

トロ。。

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT
DOES THAT LAW REALLY APPLY HERE, IN THE LAND OF AZUCHI?
WHO THE HELL IS THAT MONK?!
HE'S HUGE ...
AND HE'S DRESSED REALLY FLASHILY...
THE LAW OF THIS LAND STATES
THAT IF SOMEONE BUYS SOMETHING THAT THEY DO NOT REALIZE IS A STOLEN GOOD, THEN THEY CANNOT BE PUNISHED FOR ANY CRIME! THAT IS ONE OF THE LAWS OF THIS TOWN, IS IT NOT?
HEY, YOU! EXPLAIN IT SO MY BOSS UNDERSTANDS YOU!!
WHA AA ?!
HUH ?
CRA CK
MY, MY, YOU'RE REALLY IN FOR TROUBLE NOW


WELL SAID, MONK!
EXACTLY
EVEN THOUGH IT WAS STOLEN, THE PERSON WHO IT WAS STOLEN FROM CAN DO NOTHING ABOUT THAT LAWFUL EXCHANGE!
IN OTHER WORDS, AS LONG AS THE STOLEN GOOD IS SOLD IN A LAWFUL MANNER, THE BUYER IS SAFE!

YOU THINK OUR BOSS COULD READ SUCH DIFFICULT LAWS LIKE...

THAT!

CRACK
UHHH
CRACK
HAVEN'T YOU EVER READ THE RULES POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD?
THAT IS THE LAW OF AZUCHI
YOU IDIOT !!

OHHHHH REALLY?!
THERE'S A LAW LIKE THAT ON THE BOARD?!

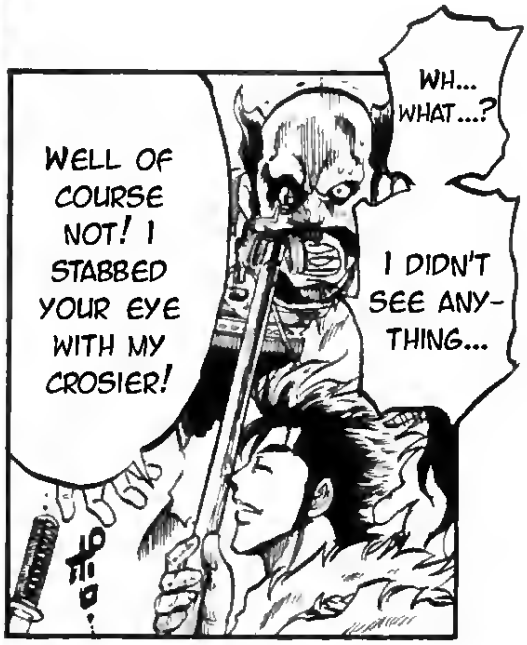
UNFORTUNATELY, HOWEVER,
I HAVE POOR EYESIGHT! I COULDN'T READ IT! SO IF I CAN'T READ IT, THEN HOW DO YOU EXPECT ME TO FOLLOW THAT RULE?!
...ARE YOU, SAYING THAT EYE IS A FAKE EYE?
YOU BET IT IS!
WHAT...WOULD YOU LIKE TO GIVE IT TO YOU TO PROVE IT?
RUB
RUB
SNI FF
SNI FF
SNI FF
SNI FF
SNI FF
SNI FF
...YOUR...

TWI TCH...
EYE IS ROTTING, YOU KNOW THAT?
IT SMELLS LIKE ROTTEN FISH!!
HE'S GOING TO GET HIMSELF KILLED!
HE'S GOING TOO FAR!
WHA...?!
LIKE A FISH I COULD NEVER EAT...
YEAH
MY EYE... SMELLS LIKE ROTTEN FISH?
AND I BET EVEN A CAT WOULD PASS IT EVEN RIGHT BY

STOP MAKING FUN OF ME, YOU STUPID MOOO OONK!!

1
LU

BE PATIENT! I'M ALMOST DONE!


WH... WHAT...?
I DIDN'T SEE ANY-THING...
WELL OF COURSE NOT! I STABBED YOUR EYE WITH MY CROSIER!

Y- YOU BAS-TARD!

GUH... GGGGH GAAGG GHH!

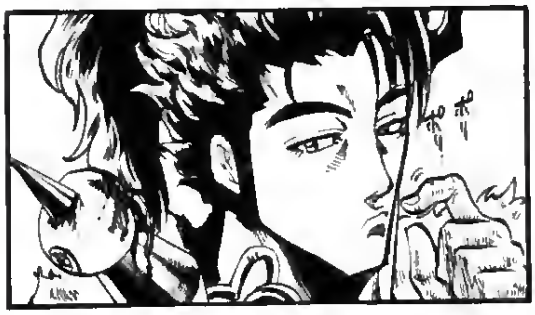
HEY NOW,
HE'S THE ONE WHO SAID HE'D GIVE ME HIS EYE
W... WAIT! HEY!

BOSS !!
I DON'T... UNDERSTAA AAAAND!
OH... OHHHH ...
MY EYE...
IS LOOKING... AT ME?
HOW DARE YOU?!
WANT TO TRY ME?
PFFT!
Y...YEAH! BRING IT ON!!

YOU VILL-AINS
JUST HURRY UP AND RUN AWAY!
AHH ?!
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!
A PROSTITUTE...?

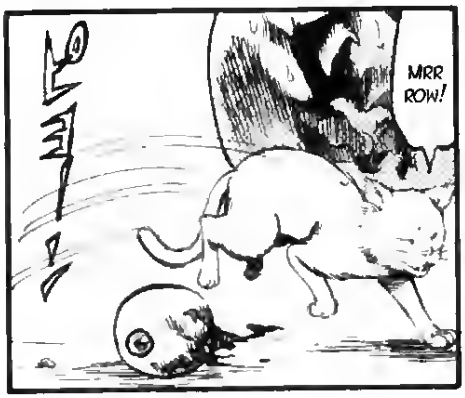
WHY SHOULD WE RUN?!
BECAUSE THE LAW THAT MONK WAS JUST SPEAKING OF WAS DECIDED ON BY LORD NOBUNAGA
IF YOU DECIDE TO BREAK THAT, YOU'LL BE BEHEADED RIGHT HERE WHERE YOU STAND
ADDITIONALLY, LORD NOBUNAGA REWARDS THOSE WHO PUT THE HEADS OF CRIMINALS ON DISPLAY
GG GH...
!?
GG GH!
UUU ...
YOU AREN'T THE ONLY TOUGH GUYS IN THIS TOWN
LOOK CAREFULLY AT THE MEN AROUND YOU! THESE ARE VAGRANTS WHO'VE GATHERED HERE FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY

わはは
HII EEE EEE E!



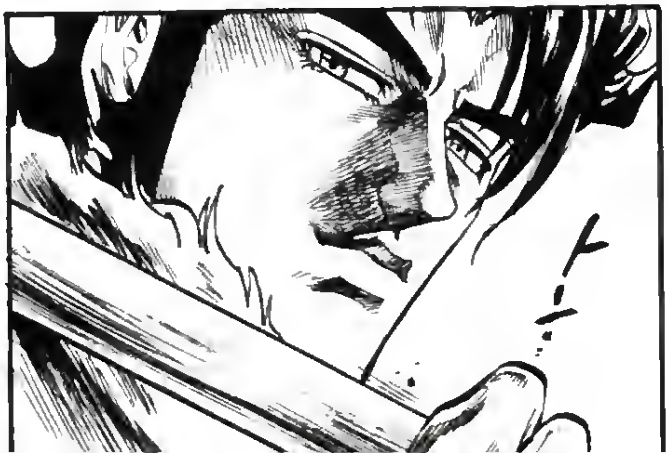
YOUR HEADS ALL LOOK LIKE COINS TO THESE MEN
LICK ...
WELL, WHAT'LL IT BE?

ニャー!
ボトッ


MRR ROW!
レロレロ

ビビ

YOU'RE REALLY CRAZY, YOU KNOW THAT?
HEY, MONK

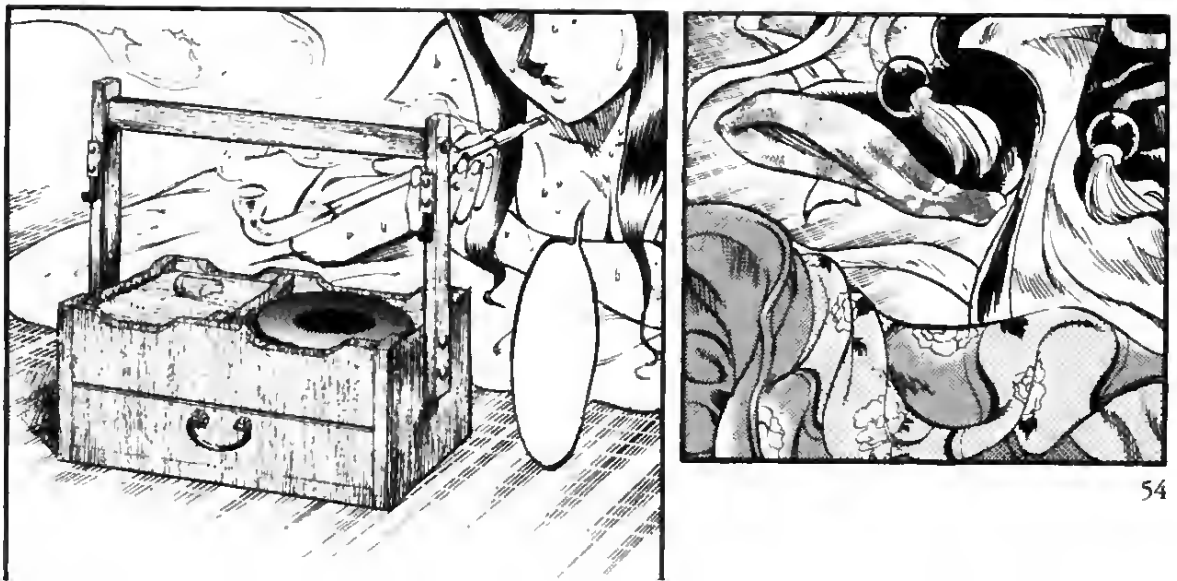

ト!

PUTTING A PRICE ON AN UNBORN CHILD..
THAT'S BEYOND INHUMANE
BUT... THANK YOU
THANKS TO YOU, I DIDN'T HAVE TO KILL THE REST OF THEM

THIS MAN IS HIGUCHI YOROKU,
LATER KNOWN AS NAOE KANETSUGU
BECAUSE OF HIS UNUSUAL HEIGHT, HE LOOKS VERY ADULT, BUT AT THIS TIME, YOROKU WAS ONLY A 16-YEAR OLD

NO, NO, I'M FINE
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU'RE SO QUIET...DOES YOUR WOUND HURT?

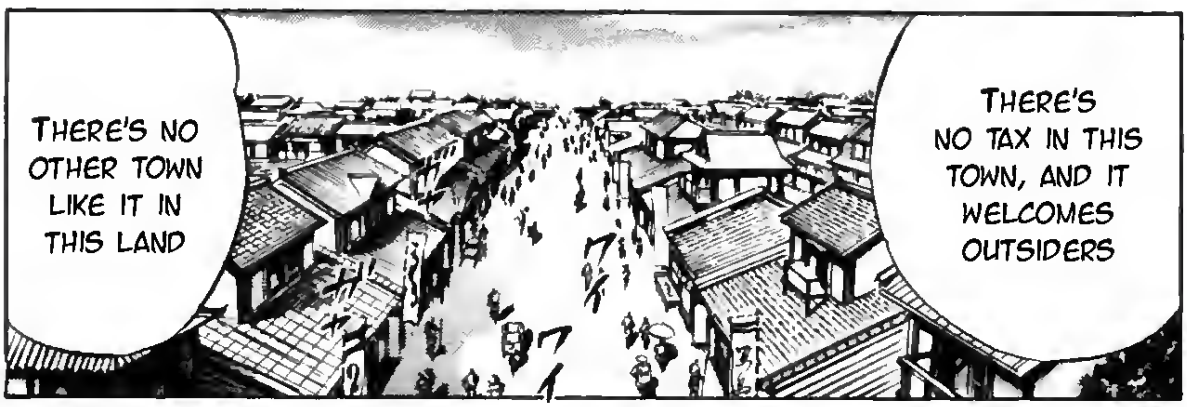
SOME-WHERE BEFORE ...
I FEEL LIKE I'VE MET HIM ...
HO OO ...
IT'S THAT MONK...
JUST WHO WAS HE?



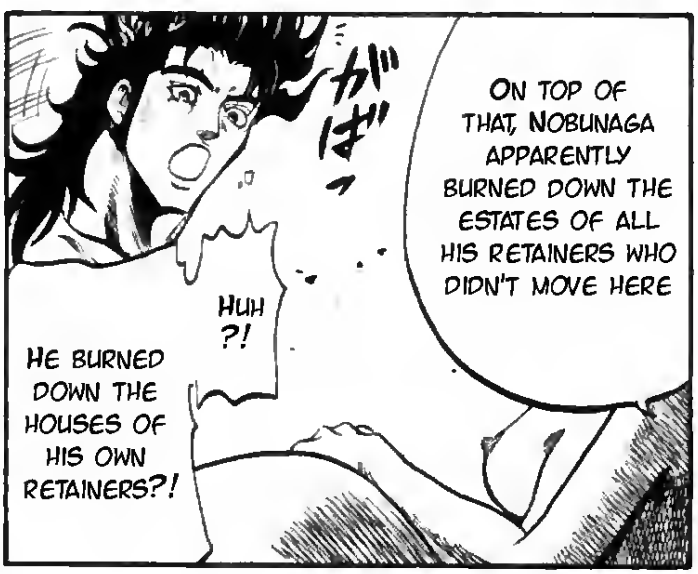
JUST WHO ARE YOU?
I DON'T BELIEVE THERE'S **ANY** MONK OUT THERE WHO COULD MAKE ME CUM THREE TIMES IN A ROW..

IT MUST HAVE BEEN BUILT AS A BARRIER FOR WHEN UESUGI DECIDES TO PROCEED TO THE CAPITAL...
BUT NOW THERE'S THIS CASTLE HERE...
YOU NEED TO CROSS ON TO THE TOKKAIDO HIGHWAY FROM THE HOKKOKU HIGHWAY TO GET TO THE CAPITAL...

HUH?
YOU'RE MAKING A BIG MISTAKE THERE


THERE'S NO OTHER TOWN LIKE IT IN THIS LAND
THERE'S NO TAX IN THIS TOWN, AND IT WELCOMES OUTSIDERS

YEAH, NOBUNAGA'S REALLY SERIOUS ABOUT THIS
PFFT


ON TOP OF THAT, NOBUNAGA APPARENTLY BURNED DOWN THE ESTATES OF ALL HIS RETAINERS WHO DIDN'T MOVE HERE
HUH?!
HE BURNED DOWN THE HOUSES OF HIS OWN RETAINERS?!

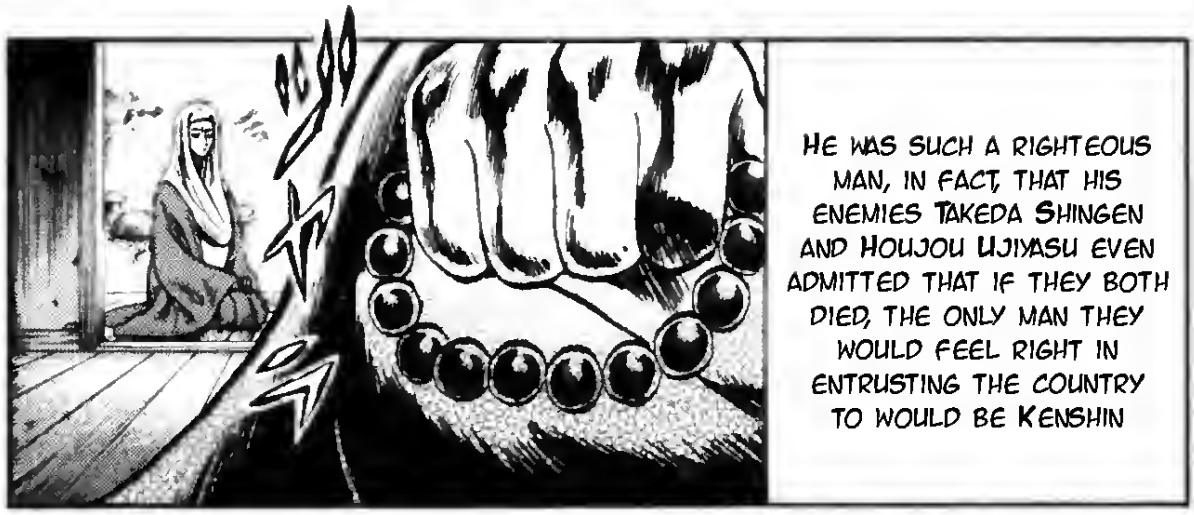
BUT WHY WOULD HE WANT TO CHANGE THE CAPITAL?
HE SAID THAT A NEW COUNTRY COULD NEVER BE MADE WHILE THE CAPITAL IS STILL IN KYOU
NOBUNAGA CLEARLY INTENDS TO MAKE THIS THE NEW METROPOLIS
THAT'S WHY OTHER VASSALS AND MERCHANTS ARE ALL GATHERING HERE
A NEW... COUN TRY...
BUT WHO CARES ABOUT THAT STUFF?
THERE'S SOMETHING MORE FUN WE SHOULD BE DOING ...

NOBUNAGA'S MIND IS BEING READ BY A WOMAN!
THE INTUITION OF WOMEN IS REALLY SOMETHING. I'M IMPRESSED
.....
FU... FUH AHA HA!
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
MMM ...
MY NAME IS...
MY NAME IS SHINO
WHAT'S YOURS?

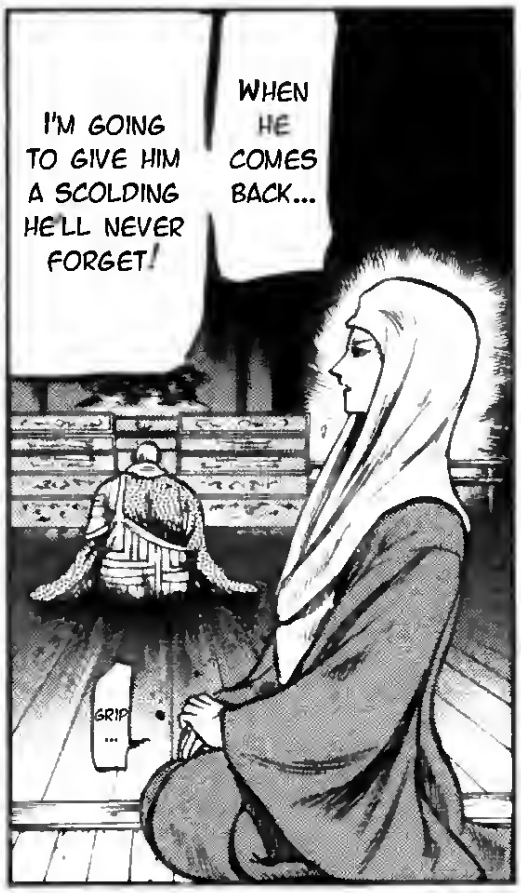
UESUGI KENSHIN'S PERSONAL MANOR
KASU GAYA-MA

SOMETIMES CALLED THE DRAGON OF ECHIGO, HE REFERRED TO HIMSELF AS THE REINCARNATION OF BISHAMONTEN, THE BUDDHIST GOD OF WAR
UESUGI KENSHIN

HE ALWAYS VOWED TO ACHIEVE VICTORY, AND PLEDGED HIMSELF TO A LIFELONG OBSERVANCE OF BUDDHIST COMMANDMENTS. HE WAS A GENIUS OF WAR, TRULY A MAN FIT TO BE CONNECTED TO THE NAME OF BISHAMONTEN
ALWAYS HONEST AND RELIABLE, HE LIVED IN A WORLD WHERE RETAINERS SUPPLANTED THEIR LORDS, AND FORGED IRON BONDS WITH THE VASSALS THAT SERVED HIM


HE WAS SUCH A RIGHTEOUS MAN, IN FACT, THAT HIS ENEMIES TAKEDA SHINGEN AND HOUJOU UJIYASU EVEN ADMITTED THAT IF THEY BOTH DIED, THE ONLY MAN THEY WOULD FEEL RIGHT IN ENTRUSTING THE COUNTRY TO WOULD BE KENSHIN

YOROKU WENT TO AZUCHI?!
.....


I'M GOING TO GIVE HIM A SCOLDING HE'LL NEVER FORGET!
WHEN HE COMES BACK...
GRIP

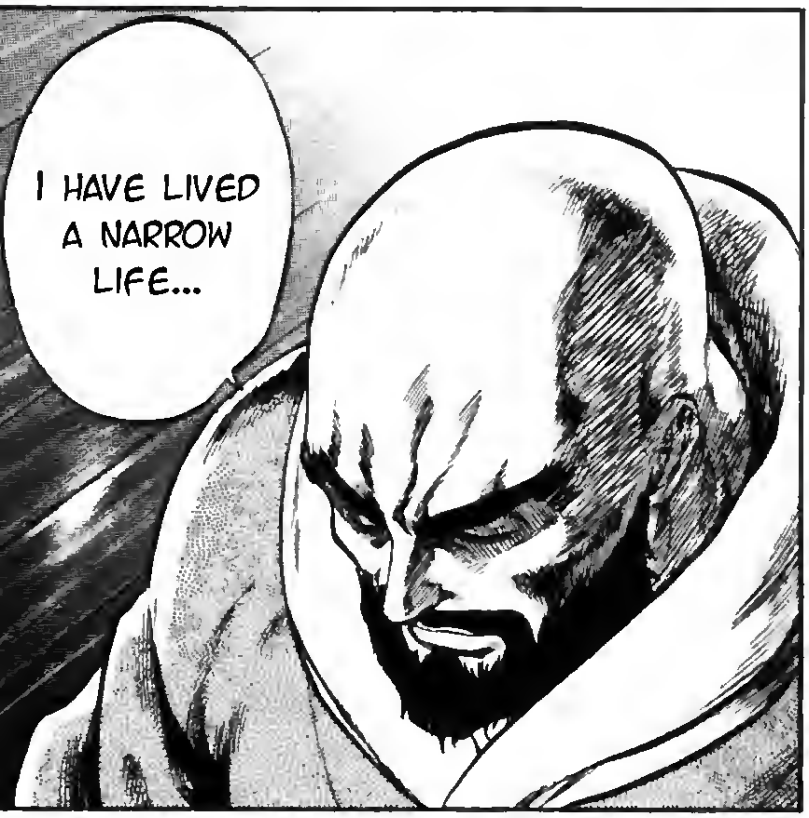
.....
I JUST...HOPE HE COMES BACK AT ALL...

I'M THE ONE WHO RAISED HIM AS KAGEKATSU'S PAGE EVER SINCE HE WAS A CHILD!
WHAT'S SO SURPRISING ABOUT THAT?
YOU SEE HIM AS YOUR OWN CHILD, DON'T YOU, SISTER...?
W-WHAT'S SO FUNNY?!
FUAH, FUAH, FUAH, FUAH!
THAT DEEP LOVE OF YOURS HEALED ME MANY A TIME WHEN I WAS A CHILD, TOO
YOU'RE SUCH A COMPASSIONATE WOMAN

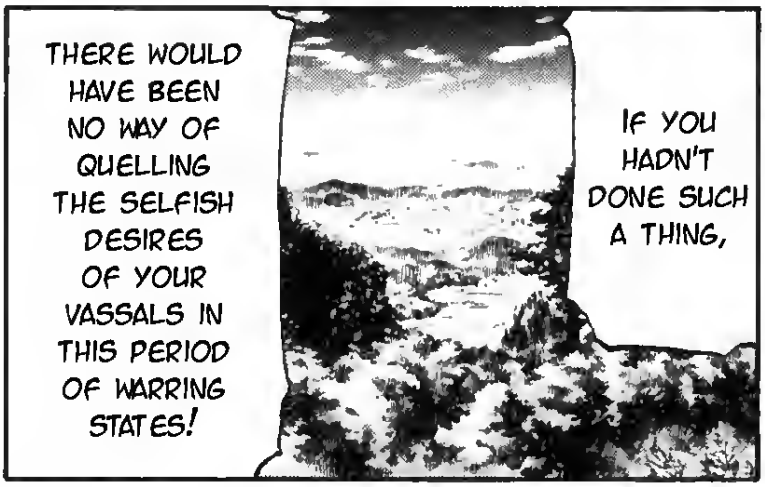
FUAH, FUAH!
IS THIS REALLY A TIME TO BE LIGHT-HEARTED?!
A CLOUD?
YOROKU IS A CLOUD
SISTER...
THEREFORE HE CANNOT STAY IN THE SAME PLACE FOREVER
BUT ...

I ALSO...
WANTED TO BECOME A CLOUD

ARE YOU JEALOUS OF YOROKU?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
WH...


I HAVE LIVED A NARROW LIFE...

PLEDGED MYSELF TO THE BUDDHIST COMMANDMENTS, AND BECAME THE REINCARNATION OF BISHAMONTEN ...
I RAISED A FLAG OF DUTY...


THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO WAY OF QUELLING THE SELFISH DESIRES OF YOUR VASSALS IN THIS PERIOD OF WARRING STATES!
IF YOU HADN'T DONE SUCH A THING,

S...STOP THIS!
HOW CAN YOU SPEAK IN SUCH AN IMPRUDENT MANNER?!

I UNDER-STAND THAT...
MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE
IN THAT CASE...
YOU MUST GIVE UP ON YOROKU
I MYSELF AM FINE WITH HOW I TURNED OUT
BUT YOROKU IS A CLOUD!

AND THAT CLOUD WILL BE ABLE TO SEE THINGS FROM THE SKY THAT I, KENSHIN, WAS NEVER ABLE TO SPY!
AND SOMEDAY, HE WILL COME TO PROTECT ME...THAT IS WHAT I BELIEVE!!
YES
THAT'S IT, THAT'S IT!
HM? CLOUD?
CLOUD ...

CLOUD!
I'M A CLOUD!

EVERYONE MUST CALL ME "CLOUD!"

義風堂!!

直江兼続 ～前田慶次 酒語り～

GIFUU DOUDOU!!

CHAPTER 01 BY GIFUU DOUDOU!! SCANS

TRANSLATOR: MOLOKIDAN

EDITOR: INDOMITABLECLOUD

CHAPTER 2 THE STRAY DRAGON OF ECHIGO!

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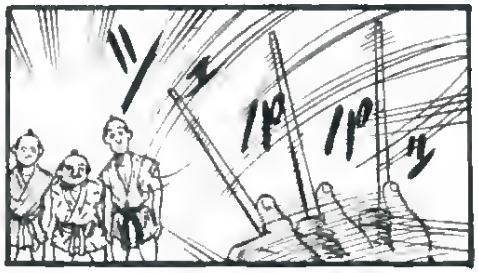
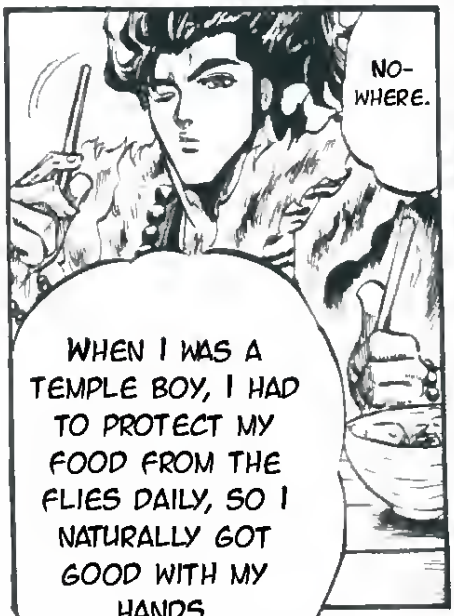
YOU IDIOT! DON'T LOOK AT HIM!
HEY, THAT'S THE GUY WHO MADE THAT SCENE AT NOON...
MUNCH MUNCH!
HRM?

WHERE WAS IT...JUST WHERE WAS IT...?
THAT MONK...I'VE SEEN HIM SOMEWHERE BEFORE...
EHH HH?!



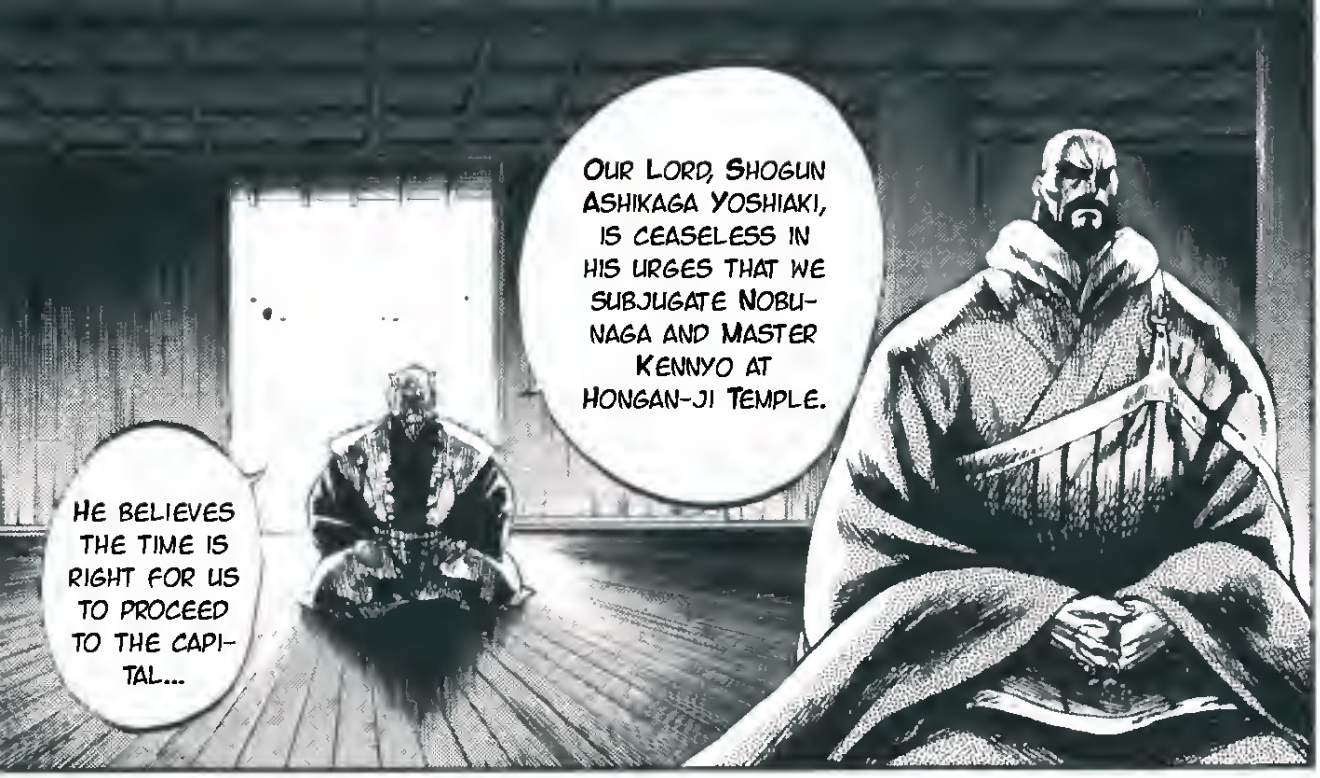

NO-WHERE.
WHEN I WAS A TEMPLE BOY, I HAD TO PROTECT MY FOOD FROM THE FLIES DAILY, SO I NATURALLY GOT GOOD WITH MY HANDS.

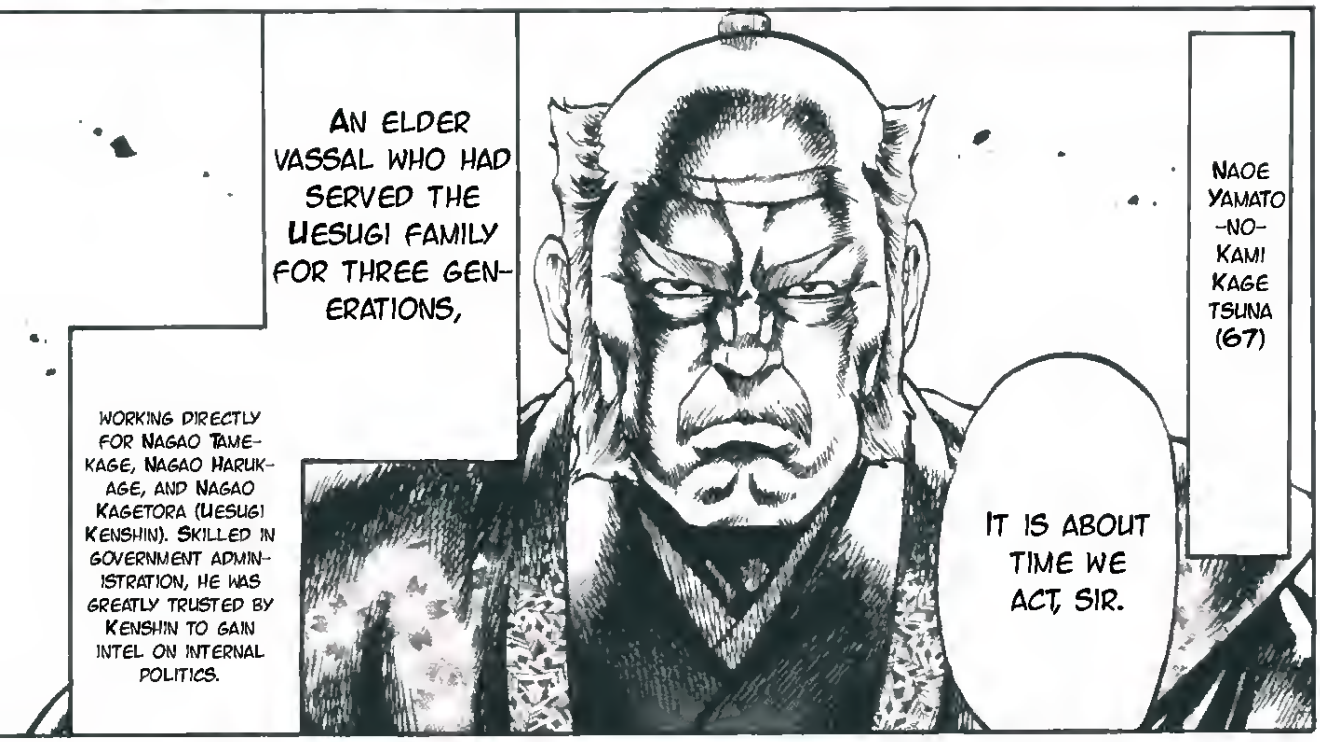
Y-YOU'RE REALLY AMAZ-ING!
CARVING OUT THAT SLAVE MERCHANT'S EYE OUT WITH YOUR CROSIER...WHERE DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR SPEAR TRAINING?

OHH HH!

YOU'RE A FUNNY GUY, YOU KNOW THAT? HERE, HAVE A DRINK!
HAHAH!!
トクトク
DON'T MIND IF I DO.
ALRIGHT THEN.

わっはっはっ
……
ECHIGO, KASUGAYAMA
UESUGI KENSHIN'S QUARTERS


Our Lord, Shogun Ashikaga Yoshiaki, is ceaseless in his urges that we subjugate Nobunaga and Master Kennyo at Hongan-ji Temple.
He believes the time is right for us to proceed to the capital...


An elder vassal who had served the Uesugi family for three generations,
Working directly for Nagao Tamekage, Nagao Harukage, and Nagao Kagetora (Uesugi Kenshin). Skilled in government administration, he was greatly trusted by Kenshin to gain intel on internal politics.
Naoe Yamato-no-kami Kagetsuna (67)
It is about time we act, sir.

What is Nobunaga up to?
So...

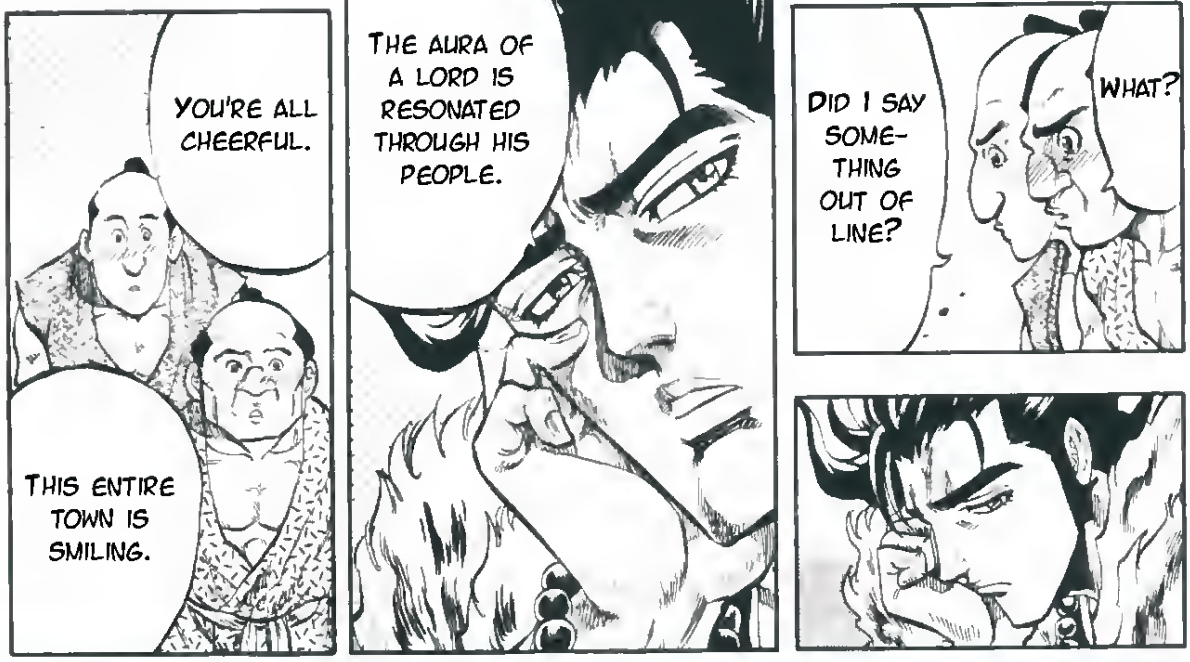
HE BUILT THAT CASTLE TO TRY AND BLOCK THE CAPITAL OFF FROM US, DIDN'T HE?
I BELIEVE SO...
NOKIZARU WAS THE NAME OF THE UESUGI HOUSE'S NINJA GROUP
ACCORDING TO THE NOKIZARU, THE CONSTRUCTION OF AZUCHI CASTLE IS BEING HURRIED ALONG.
THE CASTLE TOWN IS RATHER STRANGE..
Y"
HOWEVER.
THERE'S EVEN A RULE IN THE TOWN THAT STATES "WHOEVER PASSES THROUGH AZUCHI MUST SPEND THE NIGHT HERE." IT'S DESIGNED TO WELCOME IN OUTSIDERS.
IT IS APPARENTLY OVERFLOWING WITH NINJA SENT THERE BY ALL SORTS OF DAIMYO...BUT THE POLICE THERE SEEM TO HAVE NO INTENTION OF ROUNDING THEM UP

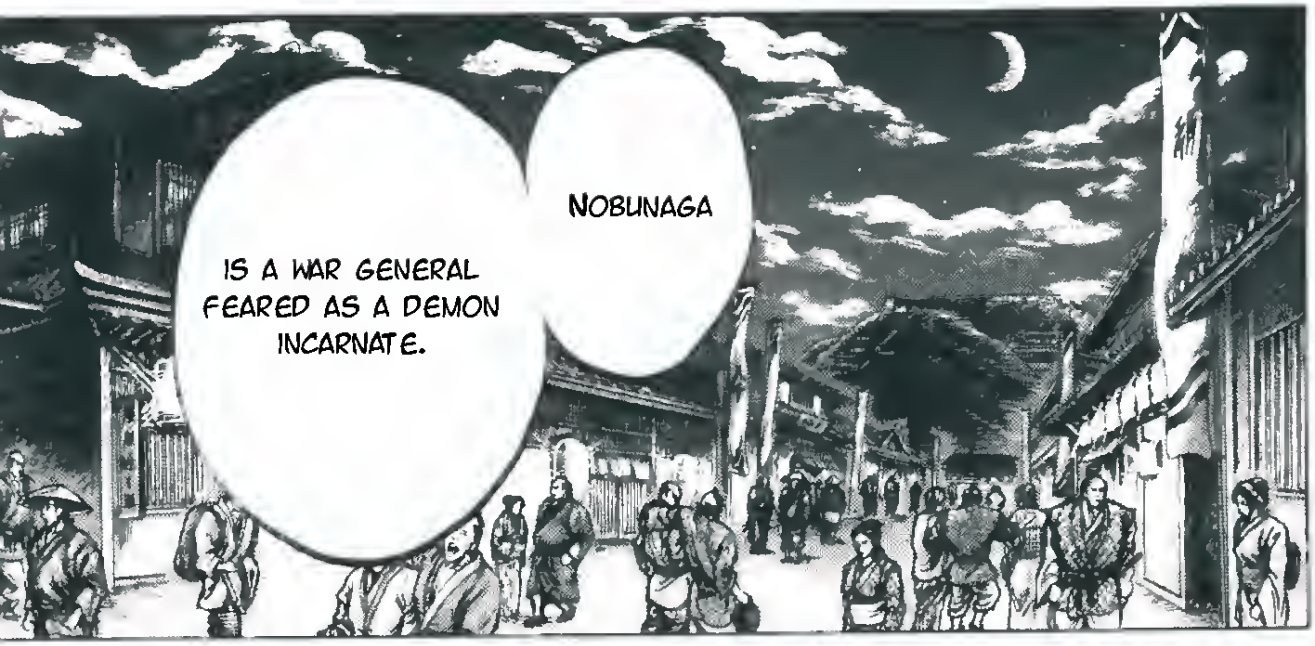
WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT I SEE!!
YOROKU... BORE YOUR EYES INTO NOBUNAGA'S SOUL!!
..TRULY STRANGE!
MMM...

NOBU-
NAGA'S BEEN
MIXING IN
WITH THE
LABORERS
DAILY AND
HELPING
OUT WITH
THE RUBBLE
WORK?!
WHAT?!

THIS COM-
PLICATES
THINGS.
WELL...

HE EVEN
DRINKS AND
DANCES WITH
US, TOO!
YEAH!


YOU'RE ALL CHEERFUL.
THIS ENTIRE TOWN IS SMILING.
THE AURA OF A LORD IS RESONATED THROUGH HIS PEOPLE.
DID I SAY SOME-THING OUT OF LINE?
WHAT?

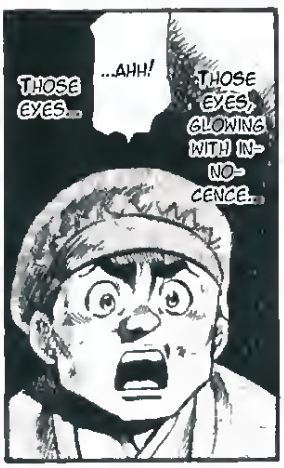

NOBUNAGA
IS A WAR GENERAL FEARED AS A DEMON INCARNATE.

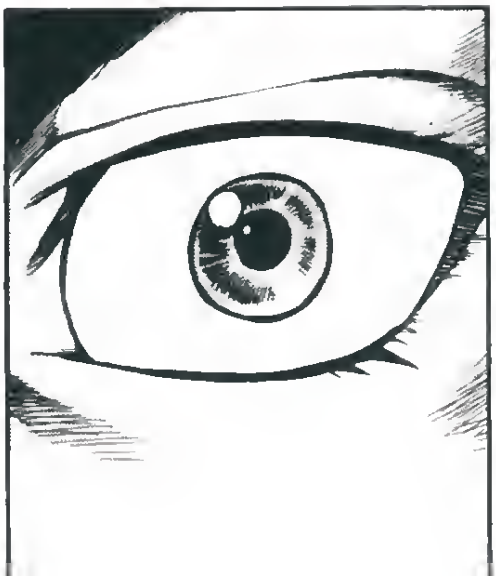
MAKES THINGS SEEM A LOT MORE COM-PLICATED.
BUT THE CHEER I SEE IN THIS TOWN

HAHAHA! YOU SHOULD GO MEET HIM, THEN!
WHAT?!
IS THAT EVEN POS-SIBLE?!
SURE! JUST DRESS UP AS A LABORER AND GO TO THE CASTLE, AND YOU CAN MEET HIM ANY-TIME YOU WANT!
カは
は
は
ドゴ
カカカ
...INTER-ESTING...
WOAA AAH!
ビュー
ガッ

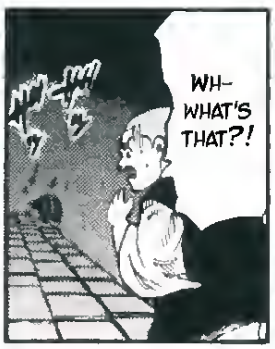
THIS SOUNDS FUN!
AND YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY, SEEING IS BELIEV-ING!

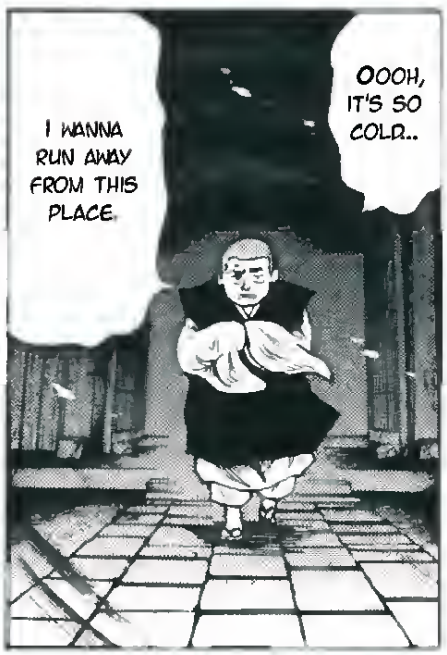
HE'S ...

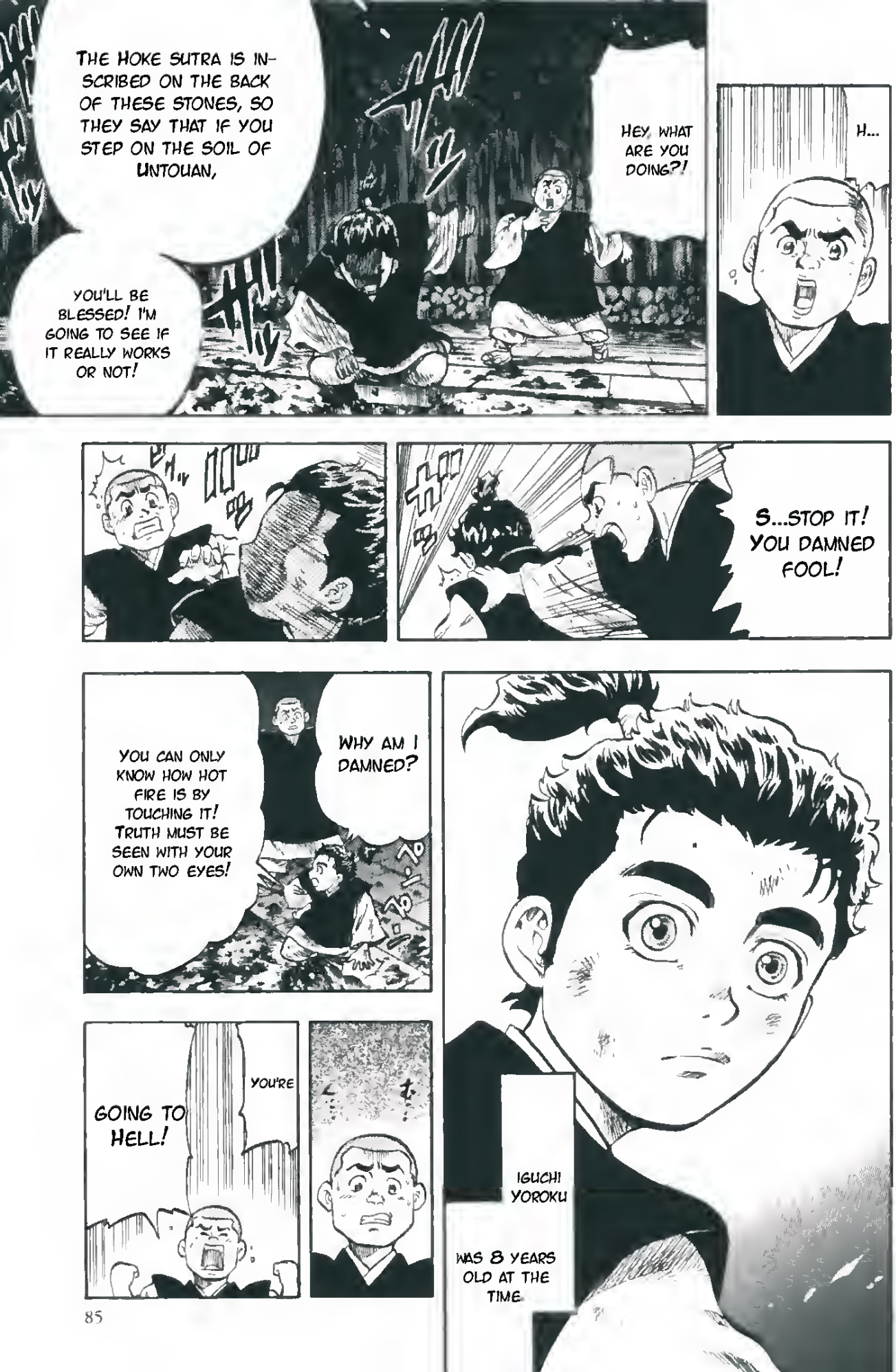

THOSE EYES..
...AHH!
THOSE EYES, GLOWING WITH IN-NO-CENCE..



HE'S UNTOUAN FROM ECHIGO SAKATO,
THE BOY I MET WHEN I TRIED TO ESCAPE FROM MY MONK TRAIN-ING...
AHH! HE'S UNT-OUAN!


WH-WHAT'S THAT?!


I WANNA RUN AWAY FROM THIS PLACE.
OOOH, IT'S SO COLD..


THE HOKE SUTRA IS INSCRIBED ON THE BACK OF THESE STONES, SO THEY SAY THAT IF YOU STEP ON THE SOIL OF UNTOUAN,
YOU'LL BE BLESSED! I'M GOING TO SEE IF IT REALLY WORKS OR NOT!
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
H...
S...STOP IT! YOU DAMNED FOOL!
YOU CAN ONLY KNOW HOW HOT FIRE IS BY TOUCHING IT! TRUTH MUST BE SEEN WITH YOUR OWN TWO EYES!
WHY AM I DAMNED?
YOU'RE GOING TO HELL!
IGUCHI YOROKU WAS 8 YEARS OLD AT THE TIME.

HOW CAN YOU BE A
WARRIOR IF YOU'RE AFRAID OF HELL?!
WH...WHAT?! I'D EVEN CUT OFF ENMA'S HEAD IF I HAD TO!!
IT... IT'S THAT BOY..

THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN!!
HE'S GOING TO MEET NOBU-NA-GA...

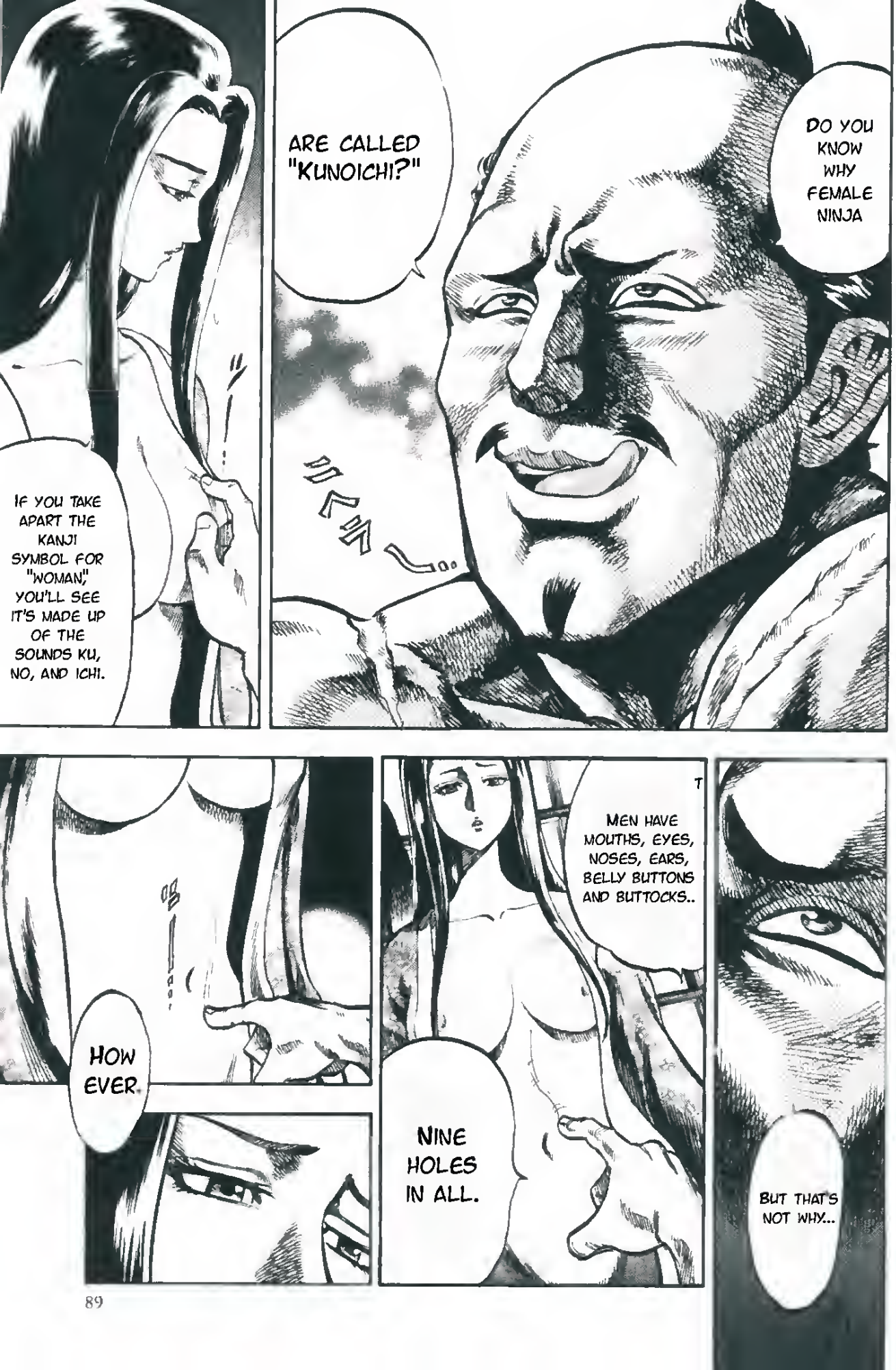
THIS MAN IS THE LONE DRAGON OF ECHIGO!! HIGUCHI YOROKU!!

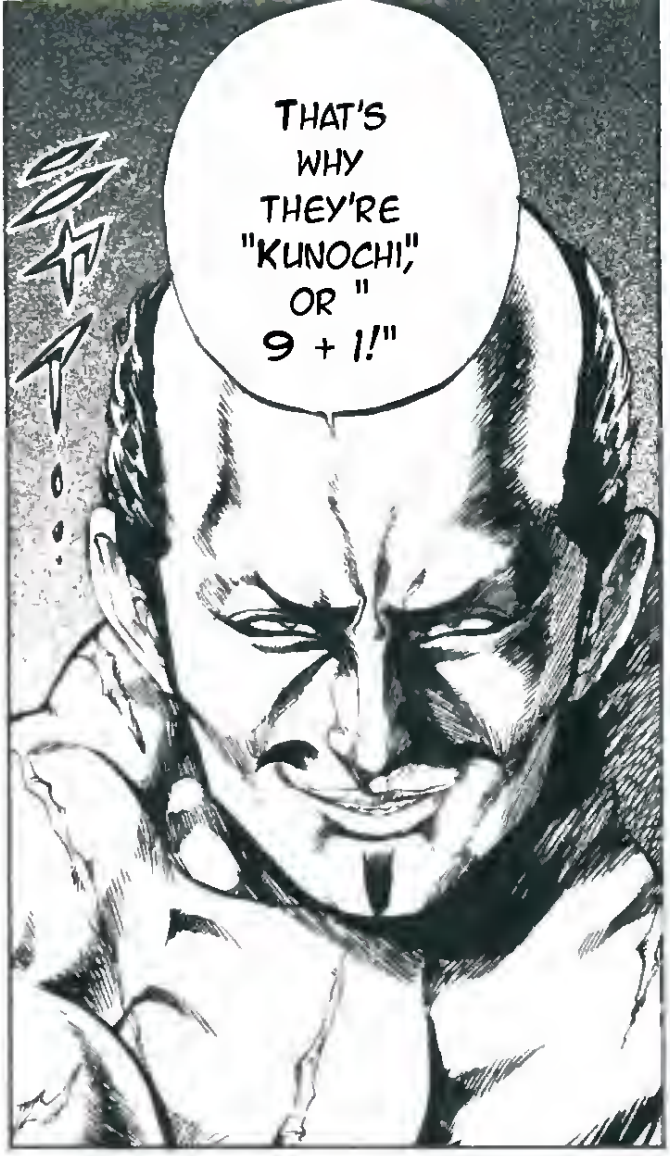
スー

ビクン
NNN...
ハ!

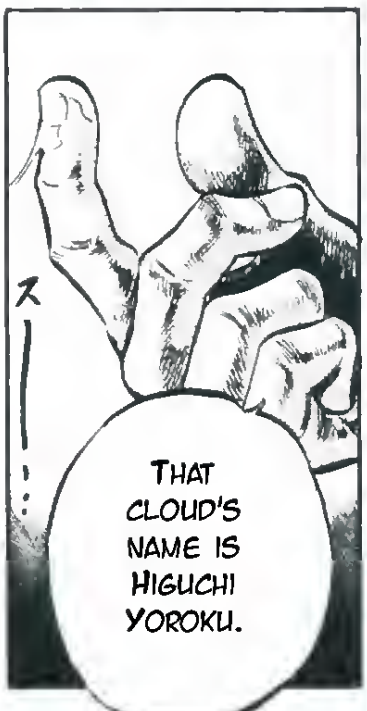
FUFU...
ビク

HA...
ハ!

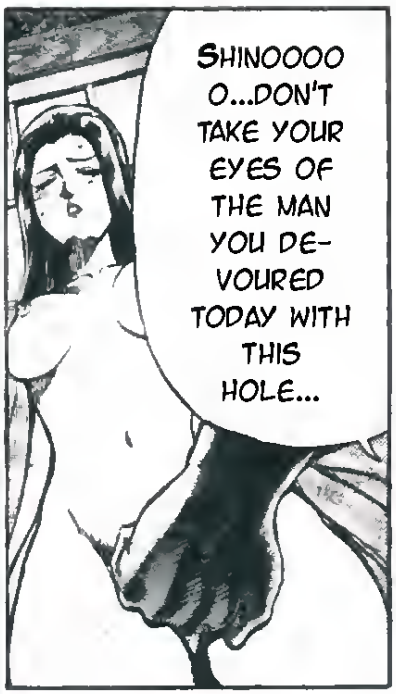

IF YOU TAKE APART THE KANJI SYMBOL FOR "WOMAN," YOU'LL SEE IT'S MADE UP OF THE SOUNDS KU, NO, AND ICHI.
ARE CALLED "KUNOICHI?"
DO YOU KNOW WHY FEMALE NINJA
HOW EVER.
MEN HAVE MOUTHS, EYES, NOSES, EARS, BELLY BUTTONS AND BUTTOCKS..
NINE HOLES IN ALL.
BUT THAT'S NOT WHY...


ジャア!!
THAT'S WHY THEY'RE "KUNOCHI," OR " 9 + 1!"

WOMEN HAVE ONE MORE HOLE.
AH...
AH...

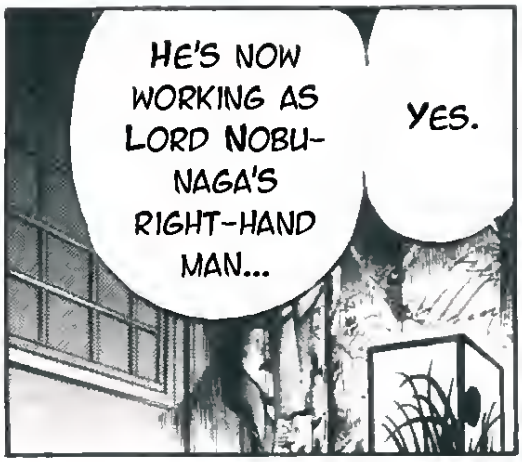

スー!!!
THAT CLOUD'S NAME IS HIGUCHI YOROKU.

EHHH?!
ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT CLOUD?


SHINOOOO...DON'T TAKE YOUR EYES OF THE MAN YOU DE-VOURED TODAY WITH THIS HOLE...

B...
BUT...
BUT NOW, HE'S A FAVORED ATTENDANT WHOM KENSHIN PERSONALLY TAUGHT THE ART OF WAR TO!
ECHIGO IS THE SON OF THE ELDER OF SAKATO CASTLE.
I DON'T THINK HE'S THE KIND OF MAN YOU WOULD NEED TO WORRY ABOUT MY LORD..
"IF WE ARE TO FIGHT WITH KENSHIN, THEN WE MUST NOT TAKE OUR EYES FROM THAT MAN!"
I THINK I'M PICKING UP ON THE SCENT OF A HUGE MYSTERY.

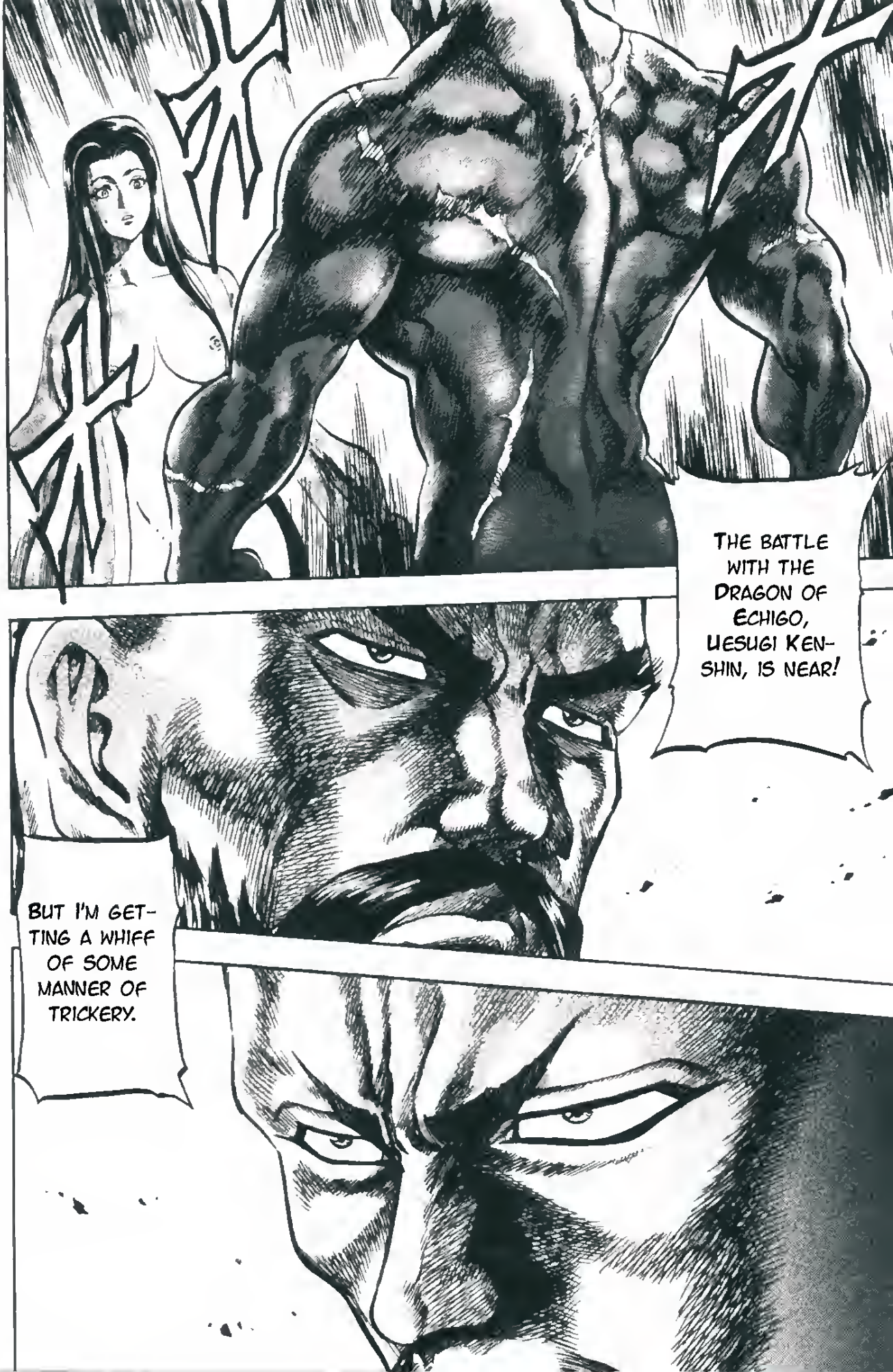
THOSE ARE
THE WORDS OF LORD KONOE SAKIHISA.


HE'S NOW WORKING AS LORD NOBU-NAGA'S RIGHT-HAND MAN...
YES.

KK KH...
Y...YOU MEAN
THE PREVI-OUS CHIEF ADVISOR TO THE EMPEROR SPOKE OF CLOUD?!

SMELL S FISHY, DOESN' T IT?

REMEMBER THAT LORD SAKIHISA ONCE SEALED A BLOOD PACT WITH UESUGI KENSHIN IN ORDER TO RESTORE THE AUTHORITY OF THE SHOGUN AND THE EMPEROR.
.....
KKK HH...
知
?
HE KNOWS UESUGI INSIDE AND OUT!


THE BATTLE WITH THE DRAGON OF ECHIGO, UESUGI KENSHIN, IS NEAR!
BUT I'M GETTING A WHIFF OF SOME MANNER OF TRICKERY.

I, HASHIBA HIDEYOSHI!
THE LEADER OF NAGAHAMA CASTLE IN KONOE, HASHIBA HIDEYOSHI (40).
THIS MAN LATER CAME TO BE KNOWN AS
TOYOTOMI HIDEYOSHI

義風堂々!!

直江兼続 ～前田慶次 酒語り～

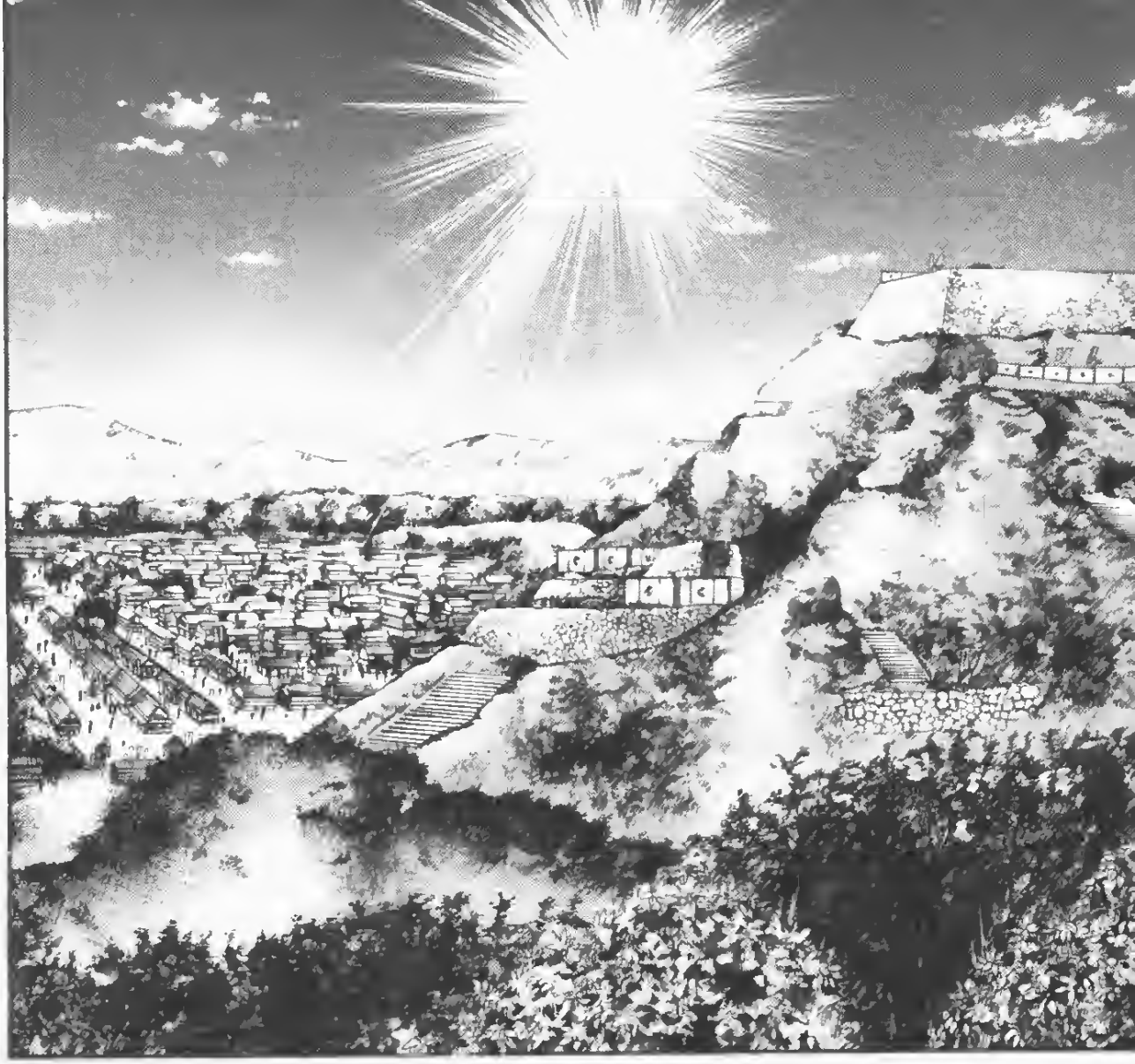
GIFUU DOUDOU!!

CHAPTER 02 BY GIFUU DOUDOU!! SCANS

TRANSLATOR: MOLOKIDAN

EDITOR: INDOMITABLECLOUD

DEPARTING WITH A SMILE!



THEY ALL LOOK SO EVIL!

WELL YEAH, THEY'RE THIEVES!

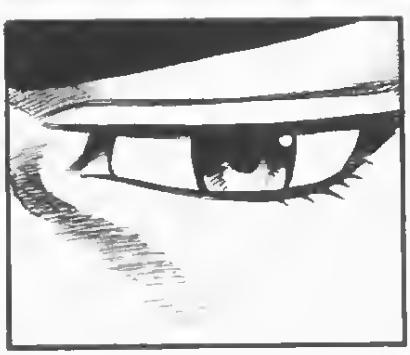
W-WHO'S THAT TALL GUY?!
HMMMM...

MORE PEOPLE TRYING TO DISTURB THE CONSTRUC-TION?

THERE'S BEEN SO MANY TROUBLE-MAKERS COMING OUT OF THE WOODWORK LATELY.

TCH
TCH.
HEY, YOU
I CAN'T SEE!!

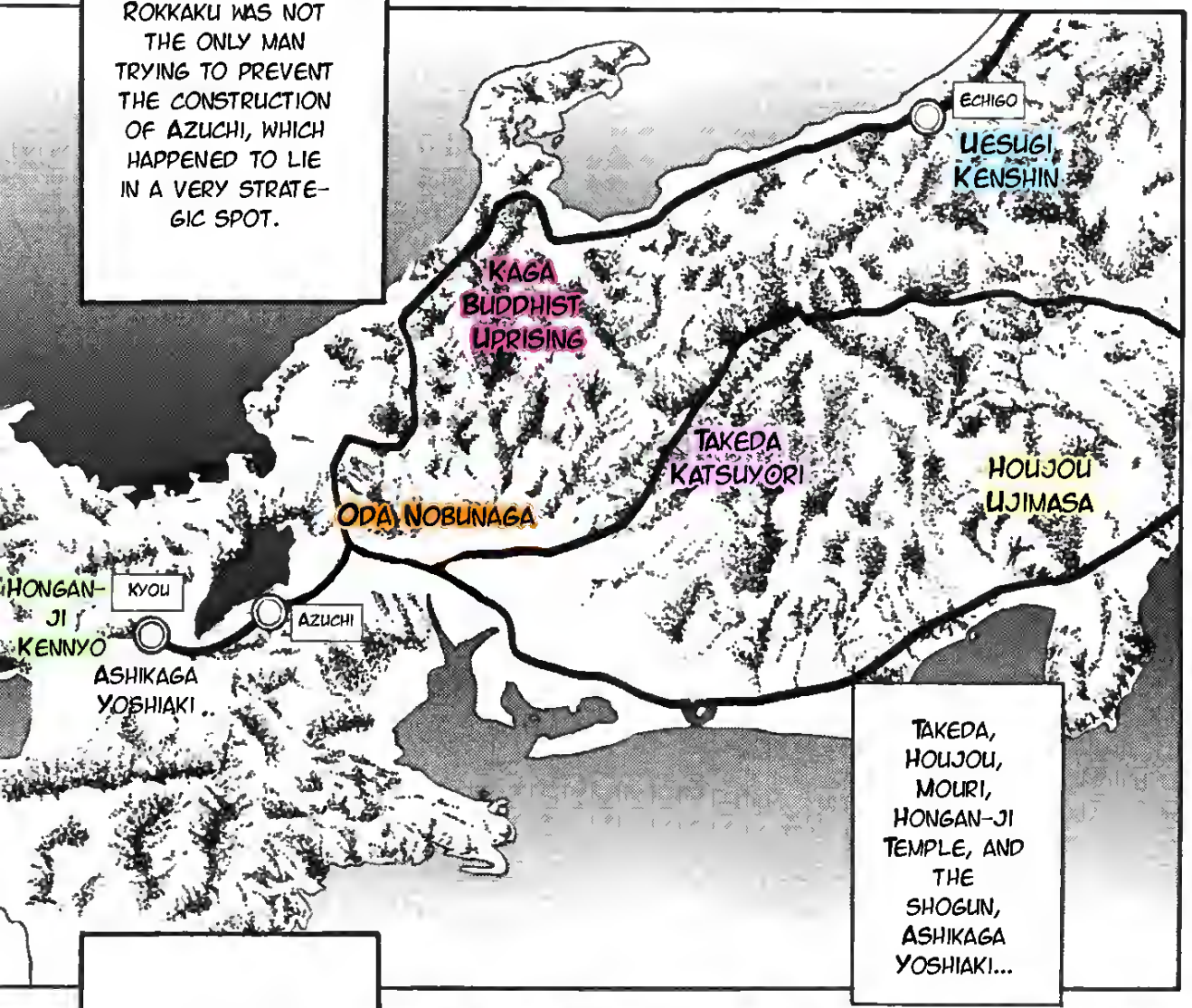
THESE HEADS ARE ALL FROM NINJAS.



INDEED, THEY WERE KOUGA NINJAS WHO ROKKAKU SHOUTEI
HAD SENT OUT AFTER BEING CHASED FROM SOUTHERN OUMI.

APPARENTLY, THEY SNUCK INTO THE ESTATE OF OKABE MATAEMON, THE LEAD CARPENTER, AND TRIED TO STEAL THE BLUEPRINTS TO AZUCHI CASTLE...

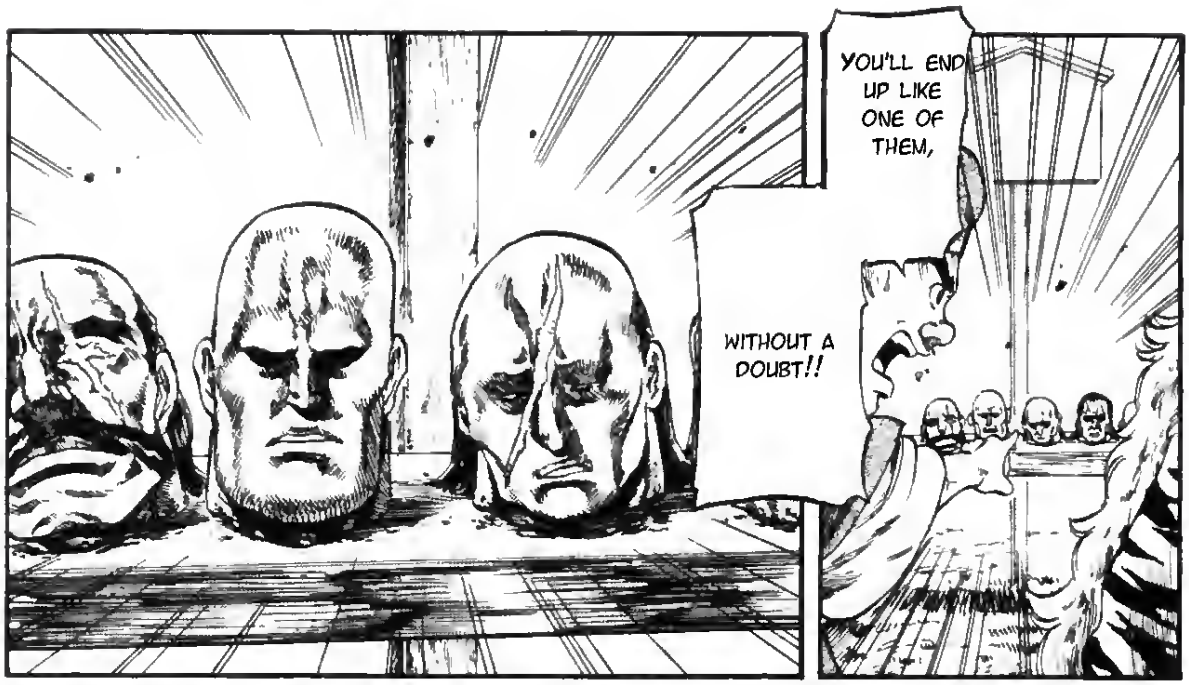
ROKKAKU WAS NOT THE ONLY MAN TRYING TO PREVENT THE CONSTRUCTION OF AZUCHI, WHICH HAPPENED TO LIE IN A VERY STRATEGIC SPOT.



TAKEDA, HOUJOU, MOURI, HONGAN-JI TEMPLE, AND THE SHOGUN, ASHIKAGA YOSHIAKI...

THE FORCES WHO WISHED TO KEEP NOBUNAGA FROM UNITING THE COUNTRY SENT IN NINJAS TO AZUCHI IN ORDER TO GAIN INTELLIGENCE AND CAUSE PROBLEMS.

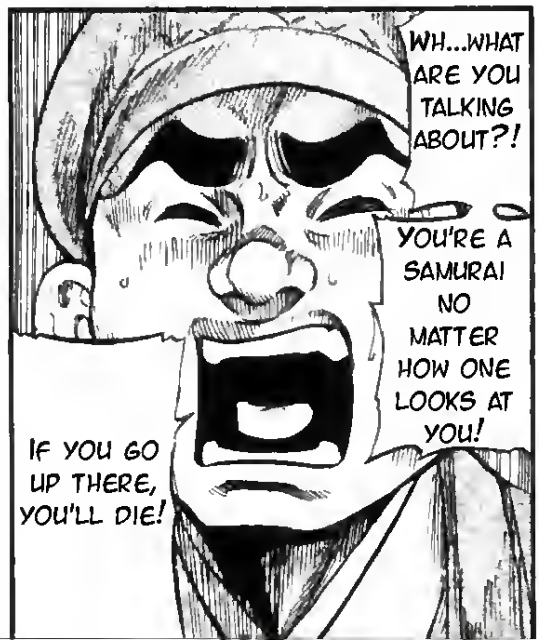
YOU REMEMBER ME, SIR?!
THAT'S WHEN I REMEMBERED. YOU'RE BUNCHIN-SAN, WHO STUDIED WITH ME AT UNTOUAN IN SAKATO.
BUNCHIN-SAN...OR MOSUKE, WAS IT?
THAT'S RIGHT...
HAWAWAH
EHHH?!
はわわ？
YOU CAN'T BELIEVE THOSE LABORERS WHO WERE TALKING TO YOU LAST NIGHT.
GOOD, THAT MAKES THINGS EASIER.
THE GUARD AROUND LORD NOBUNAGA IS ESPECIALLY RIGID.
YOU'D BE KILLED FOR BEING SUSPICIOUS.
IF YOU WERE TO DRESS UP AS A LABORER YOURSELF AND SNEAK IN TO THE MOUNTAINS,


YOU'LL END UP LIKE ONE OF THEM,
WITHOUT A DOUBT!!

NOW THIS IS GETTING IN-TERESTING.

WHAT?!
.....

EVEN IF A WOMAN SPREADS HER LEGS AND SAYS
"HERE YOU GO,"
IT'D BE RUDE TO ACTUALLY PEEK DOWN THERE, WOULDN'T IT?
HERE, THINK ABOUT IT.


WH...WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
YOU'RE A SAMURAI NO MATTER HOW ONE LOOKS AT YOU!
IF YOU GO UP THERE, YOU'LL DIE!

THE FACT THAT THEY HIDE IT IS WHAT MAKES THEM SO DESIRABLE.
ムッ!
IF YOU WANT A PEEK, YOU NEED TO WOO THEM PROPERLY.

THAT'S WHY IT'S INTERESTING!
IT... IT'S NO USE.
HE HASN'T CHANGED A BIT FROM WHEN HE WAS AT UNTOUAN...
HE'S JUST

A BIG KID!!
!!
FIIIIIISH, FIIIIIISH, GET YER FISH!
ビチ
ビチ
HELLO THERE, MISS!
SHOW ME YOUR WARES, PLEASE.

I THINK I'LL TAKE IT.
THAT SEA BREAM LOOKS GOOD.
YES MA'AM!
ビチ ビチ
YOU LOOK SEXIER THAN USUAL, MISS.
DON'T TELL ME YOU FOUND YOURSELF A LOVER?
WHAT IS IT?
ハ～
カ！
WHAT...?!
WHAT A STRANGE THING TO SAY. YOU OLD PER-VERT!!

HMPH.
THAT MAN'S

ABOUT THAT STRONG MONK...
NOW NOW, I HEARD FROM A LITTLE BIRD...

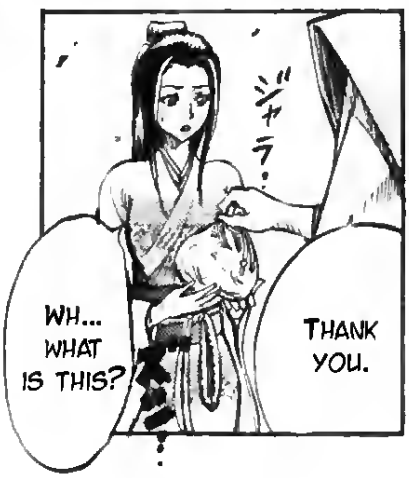
JUST A DRIFTING CLOUD

ﾀﾝ
ﾀﾝ

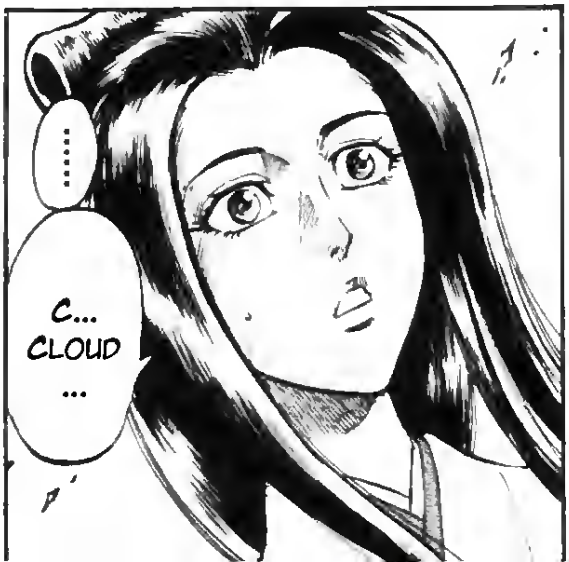
ﾀﾝ
ﾀﾝ

http://indomitablecloud.wordpress.com/

AS HE WAS TALL, THE CLOTHES TRULY FIT YOROKU. THE VERY SIGHT OF HIM WAS AWE-INSPIRING.
STANDING BEFORE HER WAS NOT A DIRTY MONK-IN-TRAINING, BUT AN INVIGORATED YOUNG WARRIOR IN AN ANKLE LENGTH HAKAMA AND A SLEEVELESS ROBE, WITH HIS HAIR TIED UP.


ジャラ
WH... WHAT IS THIS?
THANK YOU.

ス
SHINO.


……
C... CLOUD ...

ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
WH... WHAT
!?
YOU CAN'T TAKE MONEY TO THE OTHER-WORLD, YOU KNOW
MEET NOBU-NAGA ON AZUCHI MOUN-TAIN,
AS A SAMURAI OF ECHIGO'S UESUGI!

EVEN HIDEYOSHI KNEW WHO YOROKU TRULY WAS AN ATTENDANT OF UESUGI KENSHIN. HE WAS ONE OF THE PEOPLE WHO COULD NEVER BECOME PRIVY TO THE SECRETS OF AZUCHI CASTLE.
INDEED, IT WAS EXTREMELY RIDICULOUS.
.....
THAT'S RIDICULOUS...
L... LOOKING LIKE THAT...?
GOING UP TO THE CASTLE LOOKING LIKE THAT WOULD BASICALLY BE LIKE SAYING "KILL ME."

EVEN AFTER BEING SURROUNDED BY ENEMIES IN ALL FOUR DIRECTIONS, UESUGI KENSHIN WAS STILL THE ULTIMATE MAN THAT NOBUNAGA DID NOT WANT TO FACE AS AN ENEMY. AND NOW, ONE OF HIS VASSALS WAS PLANNING TO WALK RIGHT ON UP TO AZUCHI MOUNTAIN...

THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME SHINO TRULY SAW THE SOUL OF YOROKU.

I'M NO NINJA.
I'M UESUGI'S SAMURAI.
YOU MAKE THE WRONG MOVE YOU COULD START A WAR! YOU REALLY INTEND TO TEST NOBUNAGA'S PATIENCE?
IT ISN'T MY DUTY TO SNEAK AROUND. AND BESIDES, I HAVE NO INTEREST IN THAT CASTLE. I MERELY WANT TO SEE NOBUNAGA.
YOROKU WAS BASICALLY RISKING HIS LIFE JUST TO GET A GLANCE AT SOMETHING THAT HAD CAUGHT HIS INTEREST,
YET FOR SOME REASON, A COOL SMILE APPEARED ON HIS FACE.

I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU TO RETURN.
O... OKAY.
WHAT A KABUKI-MONO! SHINO WAS FASCINATED.
AND BEFORE SHE KNEW IT, SHE WAS SMIL-ING.
I IMAGINE IF I COME BACK, I'LL BE IN EVEN MORE DEBT WITH YOU.
YES.

CHAPTER 03 BY GIFUU DOUDOU!! SCANS

TRANSLATOR: MOLOKIDAN

EDITOR: INDOMITABLECLOUD

NGAH
FUGAH
WOULD YOU HURRY IT UP?!
YES SIR,
COMING!

SIR!
OTHERWISE THE RICE COULD GET STUCK IN YOUR THROAT.

MUNCH MUNCH

PLEASE, SIR, YOU MUST EAT SLOWER.

CHAPTER 4 - LAWLESS, ABOVE ALL COMMONSENSE!

SOME-ONE BRING ME SOME TEA! TEAAA AAAA!
THEN IT'S MY HEAD THAT'LL FLY!
LORD NOBUNAGA WANTS THE STONE-WORK DONE BY SPRING. AND IF IT ISN'T...
もぐもぐ
EAT SLOWER?! YOU THINK I COULD EAT SLOWER AT A TIME LIKE THIS?!
HM?!
SIR!
スス…

I RECEIVED SOME INFORMATION.
SHINO! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
……
スッ!!
CLOUD …
NO,
ABOUT WHAT?
THAT FOOL! DID HE DISGUISE HIMSELF AS A LABORER?
WE HAVE RECORDS ON EVERY SINGLE LABORER UP THERE!
IF HE GOES, HE'S A DEAD MAN!
HIGUCHI YOROKU IS HEADING TO AZUCHI MOUNTAIN TO MEET WITH LORD NOBUNAGA.

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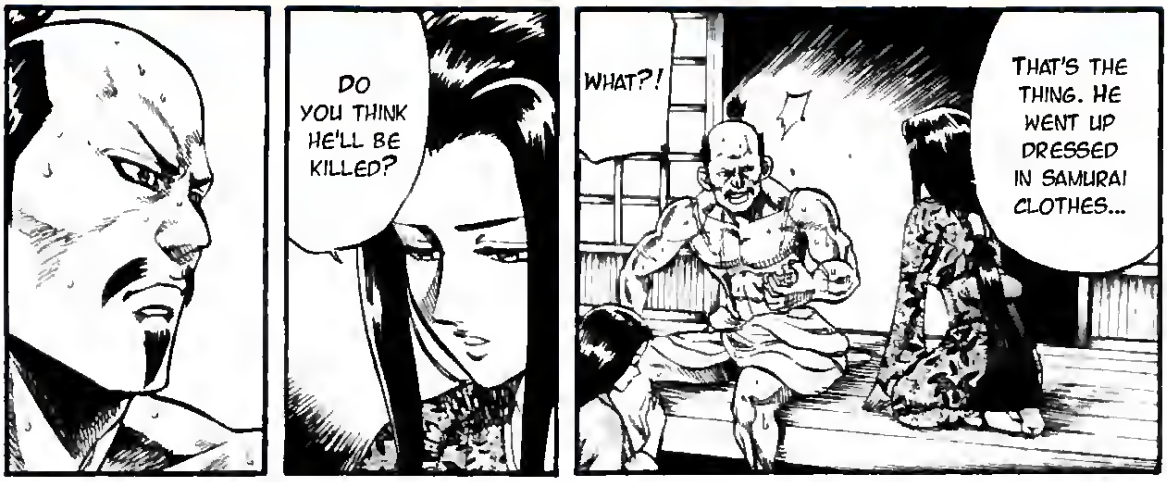
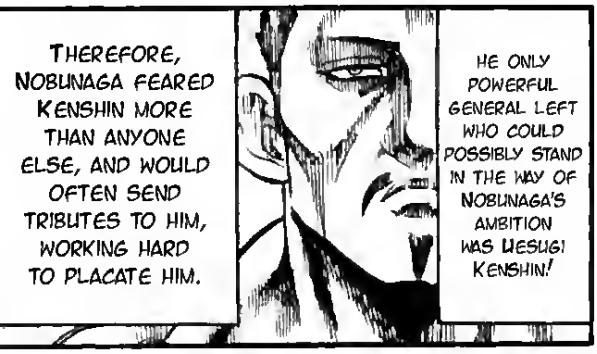
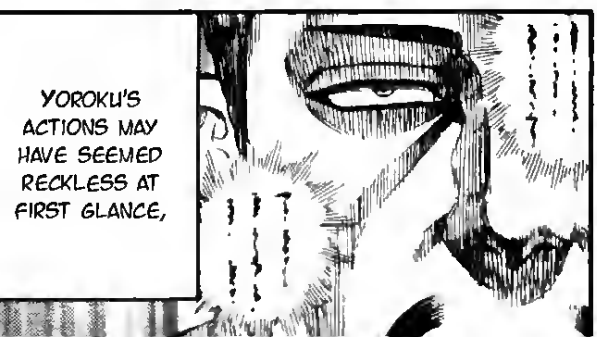






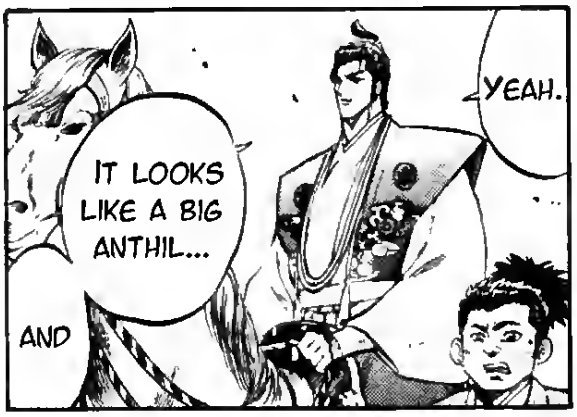
WE STILL HAVE TIME TO STOP HIM.
は…
BUT IN ACTUALITY, HE WAS EXPERTLY PIERCING NOBUNAGA'S WEAK POINT!
STILL A CHILD OF 16 YEARS,
HE WAS ALREADY ACTING WITH COURAGE AND INGENUITY. SUDDENLY, HIDEYOSHI GREW CURIOUS ABOUT YOROKU.
WHAT AN INTERESTING GUY HE IS...
THAT HIGUCHI YOROKU.

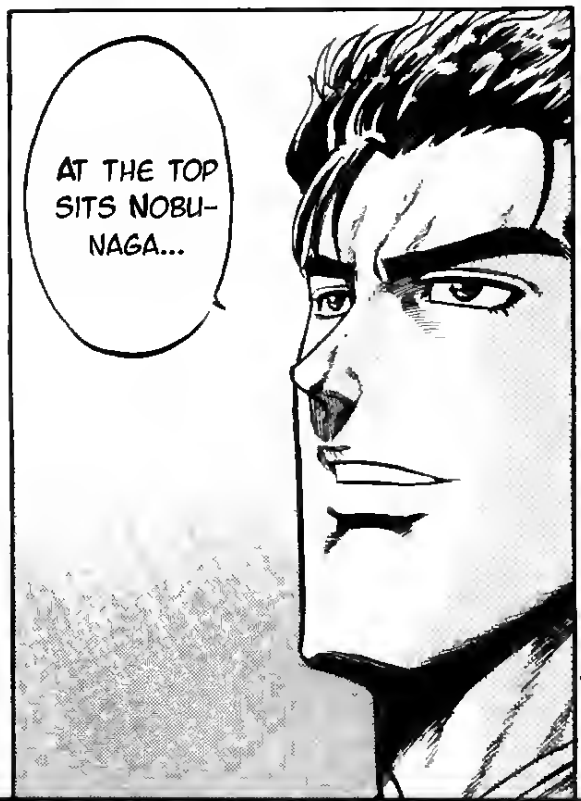
LOOK HOW HANDSOME THAT SAMURAI IS!
WHOSE VASSAL IS HE?
I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM BEFORE

WHAT WAS GOING THROUGH HIS MIND?
MOSUKE'S FACE HAD CHANGED SUDDENLY, INTO THE VISAGE OF A WARRIOR.
ASKED SOMEONE IN THE PUB.
WHERE DID YOU HEAR THAT?
DOING THIS COULD MEAN YOUR LIFE.
THEN I'D ADVISE YOU TO FORGET IT.
AND ?
AND..
I OWE YOU FOR SAVING MY CHILD AND WIFE.
WHAT'S WRONG, MOSUKE?
IF YOU'RE UESUGI'S VASSAL, THEN YOU MUST ARRIVE ON A HORSE, LEST YOU SHAME YOUR MASTER.

(*TL NOTE: THE RIVER IN THE AFTERLIFE THAT THE DEAD MUST CROSS. YOROKU'S USING A METAPHOR AND EQUATING THIS TO THE GATE OF THE CASTLE.)

OK, MASTER.
WE'VE REACHED THE SANZU RIVER.

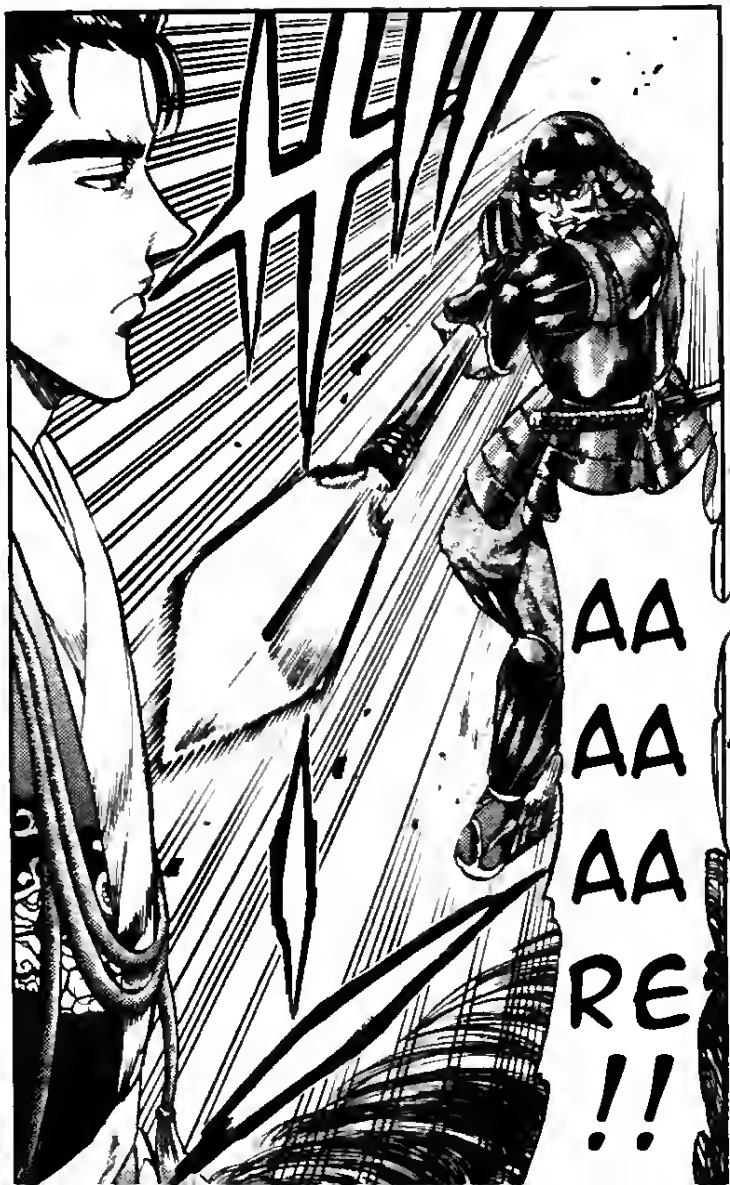

YEAH.
IT LOOKS LIKE A BIG ANTHIL...
AND


AT THE TOP SITS NOBU-NAGA...

WHAH!
UNAUTHOR-IZED PERSONS ARE NOT PERMITTED BEYOND THIS POINT.
I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU BEFORE
LEAVE!

I HAVE COME FROM ECHIGO TO HAVE AN AUDIENCE WITH LORD NOBUNAGA.
I AM UESUGI KENSHIN'S ATTENDANT, HIGUCHI YOROKU.

AN ATTENDANT OF UESUGI KENSHIN...
OH... REALLY ...?
IS THAT SO...?


AA AA AA RE !!

LIKE HELL YOU ...

HAR
EE
EEE
HHH!
OH
HHH
HH!

M...
MASTER!

S...
SHUT
YOUR
MOUTH!
UGA
KUH
...

NOW, I'VE
MADE
A FIRM
EFFORT
TO BE
POLITE...
YOU
MIGHT AS
WELL BE
NAKED.

GET
HIM!

HO OO.
AHH!
I'LL LEAP UP TO THE TOP OF THIS HILL
IN AN INSTANT!
FAREWELL, MOSUKE!

わ はははは
WHAT A COURA-GEOUS WARRIOR YOU ARE!
WELL DONE! SPLEN-DID!
HASHIBA HIDEYOSHI!
I'M THE CONSTRUC-TION DIRECTOR FOR THIS CASTLE,
.....
WHO MIGHT YOU BE?

OHHH ...
THAT'S YOU?!
AHH!!
SIR UESUGI KENSHIN'S VASSAL, HIGUCHI YOROKU IS PROCEEDING TO THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN!
OPEN A PAA AA AA TH!
WAHAHAHAH
I'M...
SAVE IT, I ALREADY KNOW WHO YOU ARE.

OHHHH! WH...
WHAT IS THIS?!

LORD NOBU-NAGA IS?!
NOW, GO ON UP.
THOSE ARE THE WISHES OF OUR LORD. HE'S WAITING FOR YOU!
OHH...
YES. I TOLD HIM YOU'RE QUITE THE KABUKI-MONO, JUST LIKE HE IS.
KABUKI-MONO ENJOY MEETING OTHER KABUKI-MONO. HIDEYOSHI KNEW ALL THE SUBTLETIES OF NOBUNAGA'S HEART, AND USED THIS WISDOM TO CLEVERLY THINK UP THE PERFECT WAY TO HANDLE THINGS.

I AM TOUCHED BY YOUR KIND-NESS.

ニヤ!!

AND IF YOU MANAGE TO SURVIVE, THEN LET US MEET AGAIN!
THAT'S IT! GO ON AND SIZE YOUR-SELF UP AGAINST HIM!
YEAH!

義風堂!!

直江兼続 ～前田慶次 酒語り～

GIFUU DOUDOU!!

CHAPTER 04 BY GIFUU DOUDOU!! SCANS

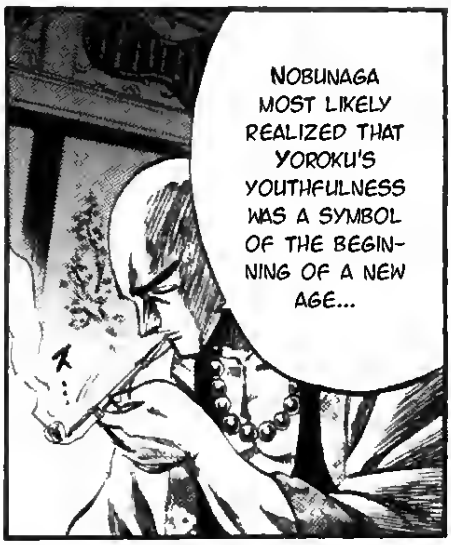
TRANSLATOR: MOLOKIDAN

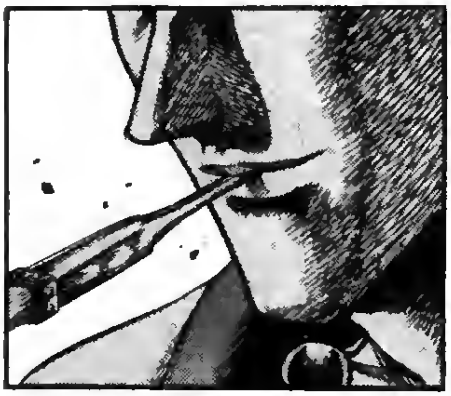
EDITOR: INDOMITABLECLOUD

CHAPTER 5
THE DEMON, NOBUNAGA!
HOO.
IN EVERY STATE BACK THEN...
THERE WAS FAMINE
KA

CHAPTER 5
THE
DEMON,
NOBUNAGA!

NEITHER KENSHIN NOR SHINGEN WERE ANY DIFFERENT.
THEY WOULD STEAL CROPS, PLUNDER HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS, AND TAKE SLAVES.
MOST OF THE WARS WERE JUST MASS PILLAGING SO THAT PEOPLE COULD GO ON EATING.
HMM...
THEY EACH FOUGHT ONLY FOR THEIR STATES, AND NO ONE THOUGHT A BIT ABOUT UNIFYING THE ENTIRE COUNTRY...
NOBUNAGA WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO INSISTED ON "RULING BY FORCE."
EXCEPT FOR ONE MAN...
BUT INSTEAD, HE CHOSE TO CREATE ENEMIES ON ALL SIDES, AND SPEND HIS ENTIRE LIFE FIGHTING AGAINST THEM...PEOPLE EVEN DUBBED HIM THE "GREAT FOOL OF OWARI."
NO ONE WOULD HAVE SAID ANYTHING IF HE HAD JUST STAYED SILENT.


NOBUNAGA MOST LIKELY REALIZED THAT YOROKU'S YOUTHFULNESS WAS A SYMBOL OF THE BEGIN-NING OF A NEW AGE...



AND THAT IS WHAT CHARMED YOROKU.
HE SURE WAS YOUNG THEN.

WHY YOROKU RISKED HIS LIFE TO GO MEET NOBUNAGA!
AND THAT IS EXACTLY THE REASON

HMMM.
HMMM.
PSSSH!
HUH?
HMMM.
HMMM.
HOT, HOT, HOT, HOT!
FUH...

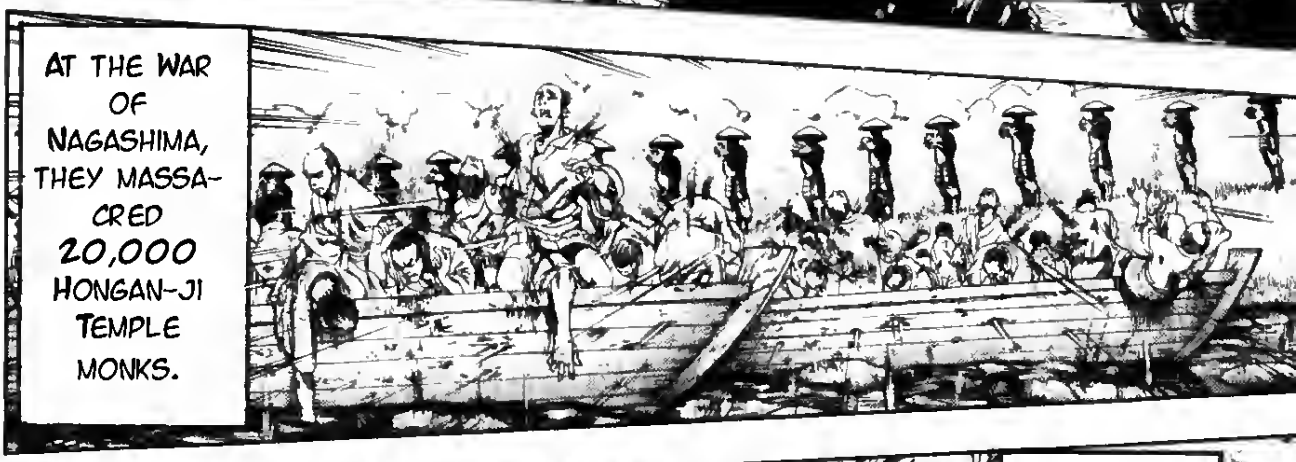
WH... WHAT IS THIS?!

HM?

OHHH!
FU
FU
FU

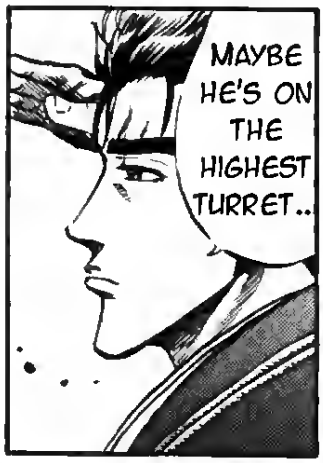
THE ATROCITIES OF NOBUNAGA'S ARMY IMMEDIATELY APPEARED IN YOROKU'S MIND
WH... WHAT CRUELTY!

AT MT. HIEI AND SAKAMOTO THEY SLAUGHTERED 4000 MONKS AND DEVOTEES.


AT THE WAR OF NAGASHIMA, THEY MASSACRED 20,000 HONGAN-JI TEMPLE MONKS.

NOBUNAGA HAD COMMITTED UNHEARD-OF ACTS OF MURDER DURING EVERY BATTLE.
DURING THE ECHIZEN BUDDHIST UPRISING, THEY EXECUTED 15,000.

A MAN-EATING DEMON, THE LORD OF THE UNDER-WORLD..
I WILL KILL ANYONE WHO DEFIES ME...
EVEN GOD HIMSELF!
THAT WAS WHO NOBUNAGA TRULY WAS!

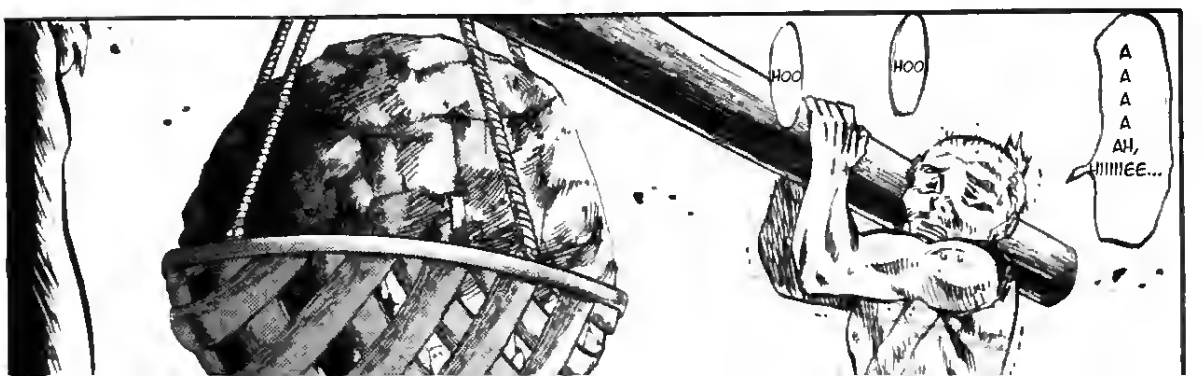

MAYBE HE'S ON THE HIGHEST TURRET..

I WONDER IF HE'S AROUND HERE...?

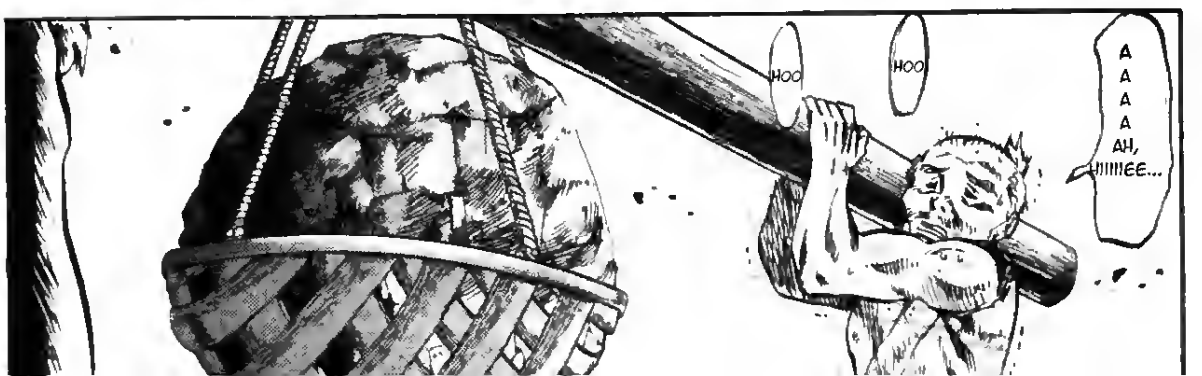
ギリ!
HEY, YOU!
HOW ABOUT LENDING A HAND?!

HOH...
FOR A TEMPORARY PALACE, THIS IS VERY ELABORATE...

HM?
HUH?
じろ―


HOO
HOO
AAAAAH, HHHEE...

HM?
HUH?
じろ―


HOO
HOO
AAAAAH, HHHEE...

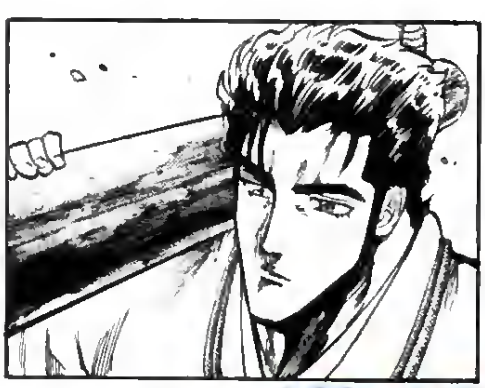
HURRY UP AND ASSIST HIM!
IT'S TOO CRUEL TO LET A POOR OLD MAN HANDLE ALL THAT.

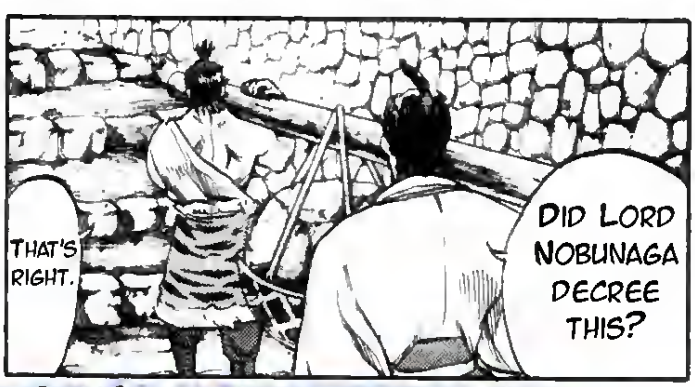
.....

ALRIGHT ...
A...

AHH, AH HHH.
HEY, MOVE IT, GRAMPS

HM MM ?
WHAT ARE YOU CARRYING AROUND THESE ROCKS FOR?
I CAN TELL YOU'RE AN ESTEEMED WARRIOR.
ARE BOTH HUMAN. THEY'RE NO DIFFERENT.
SAMURAI AND LABORERS
NO DIFFERENT?





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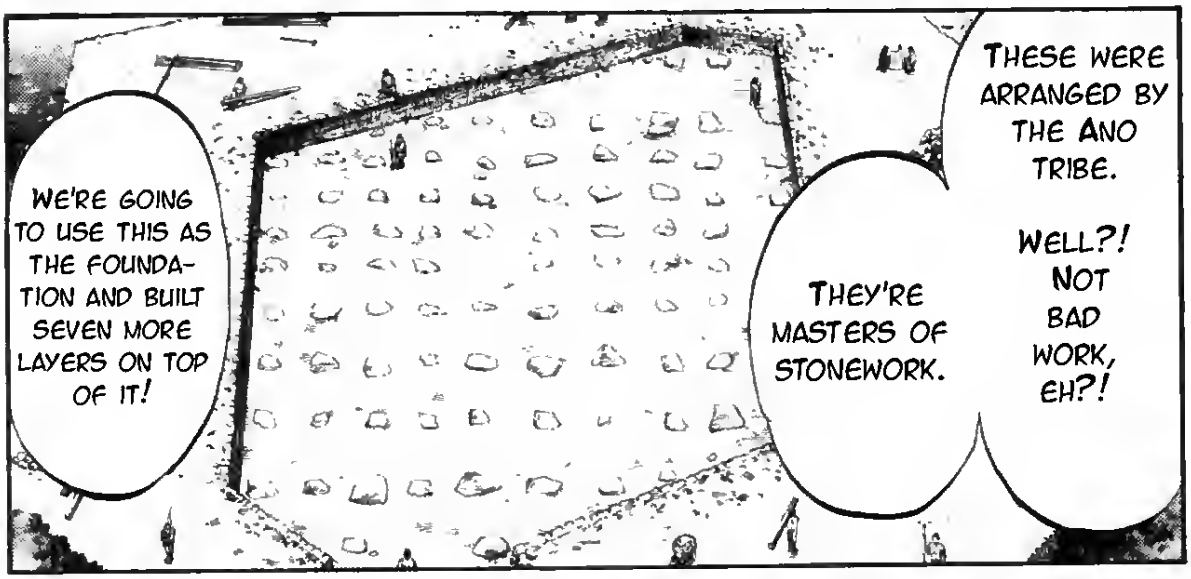
LORD NOBUNAGA SHOULD BE AROUND
キョロ!
キョロ
……

SO THIS IS THE PLACE...
HOO ...
ハスハス

HUH?
LOOK AT THIS STONE ARRANGE-MENT.


WE'RE GOING TO USE THIS AS THE FOUNDA-TION AND BUILT SEVEN MORE LAYERS ON TOP OF IT!
THEY'RE MASTERS OF STONEWORK.
THESE WERE ARRANGED BY THE ANO TRIBE.
WELL?! NOT BAD WORK, EH?!

!?
ﾊｯ!!

……

I SEE ...
キョロ!
キョロ

HM?!
OHH! NIWA NAGAHIDE, HE'S ONE OF NOBUNAGA'S FOUR ELITE LORDS!
THAT'S THE LORD OF SAWAYAMA CASTLE, NIWA NAGAHIDE. HE'S ONE OF THE CONSTRUCTION LEADERS FOR THIS CASTLE.
IS...IS THAT LORD NOBU-NAGA?!

WHAT?!
.....
!?
ス!!
MY LORD.
THE ANO TRIBE DID A FINE JOB, DIDN'T THEY?!
ス
L... LORD?!
WHAT?!
D... DON'T TELL ME THIS MAN IS...!
YES, GOROZA.
I WHOLE-HEARTEDLY AGREE.
チャ!!

NO, IT CAN'T BE! NOBUNAGA IS A YEAR OLDER THAN NAGA-HIDE. HE DOESN'T LOOK OLD AT ALL!

I HEARD ABOUT YOU FROM A LITTLE MONKEY.
WH... WHAT?!
HIGUCHI YOROKU.
GO ON, SIT DOWN,
THIS IS...

ODA NOBUNAGA ?!
DID YOU THINK I WOULDN'T KILL YOU BECAUSE YOU'RE AN ATTENDANT TO UESUGI KENSHIN?

OUR LORD HAS GIVEN YOU AN ORDER! SIT DOWN!
.....
THESE MEN ARE KOUGA NINJA UNDER THE COMMAND OF TOMONO TAROUZAEMON.
IN 1562, TAROUZAEMON SWORE ALLEGIANCE TO NOBUNAGA AS A REPLACEMENT FOR ROKKAKU JOTEI.
TRYING TO TEST ME, ARE YOU...?

YOUR ARROGANCE KNOWS NO BOUNDS!
HE REALLY INTENDS TO KILL ME!
uu u... uu!

uuu
u!

TSSH..
WH... WHAT INCREDIBLE SPEED!
HE IS TRULY ...
A MAN OF WAR!
A WEAPON OF BATTLE!

MY FATHER LOVED WAR.
I COULD HEAR THE SOUNDS OF BATTLE EVEN WHEN I WAS IN MY MOTHER'S WOMB.
I TOOK MY FIRST BATH ON THE BATTLE-FIELD.
I HAVE BEEN IN WAR MY ENTIRE LIFE.
MY BODY, BLOOD, AND HEART IS MADE OF WAR. I AM WITHOUT A DOUBT, A CHILD OF WAR.

義風堂々!! 直江兼続 前田慶次 月語り① 完

VOLUME 1
END

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BUNCH COMICS

義風堂々!! 直江兼続

前田慶次 月語り①

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CHAPTER 05 BY GIFUU DOUDOU!! SCANS

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